WORLD SOCCER

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The *INTERNATIONAL* Magazine

APRIL 1971

ESPANOL Back row left to right: Romero, Grifa, Ochoa, Maria, Carbonell, Glaria. Front row: Pares, Solsona, Re, Jose Maria, Martinez.

WORLD SOCCER
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The INTERNATIONAL Magazine

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Editor
PHILIP RISING

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Liverpool —team of the month

IF I had to name a team of the month, with regard to March, it would undoubtedly be Liverpool. In addition to their splendid performance against Bayern Munich in the Fairs Cup, Liverpool progressed to the semi-final of the FA Cup . . . where they meet, of all teams, Merseyside rivals Everton. And what a clash that promises to be!

Within the space of two days over 110,000 spectators watched two FA Cup replays in London last month—Arsenal beating Leicester at Highbury to reach the last four of the FA Cup for the first time in 19 years, and Liverpool putting out Spurs at White Hart Lane.

These results, and the draw itself, prevented either an all London or all Merseyside final in May. While Liverpool face Everton at Old Trafford, Stoke City will meet Arsenal at Hillsborough.

Three of the four FA Cup semi-finalists are still engaged in European competition (Stoke being the exception) and only Liverpool can feel at all confident of progressing further. Bill Shankly has created another splendid Liverpool side, bringing in players such as goalkeeper Ray Clemence, centre-half Larry Lloyd and forwards Steve Heighway and Brian Hall who possess outstanding potential.

Three years ago it was difficult to see anyone filling the shoes of Ron Yeats, Ian St. John and Roger Hunt. Although these players are still fondly remembered on the Kop at Anfield, fresh and exciting heroes have taken their places.

PHILIP RISING

FRONT COVER PICTURE

Featured on the front cover this month is the England and Manchester City striker Francis Lee. In recent weeks Lee has suffered from a crop of injuries and was absent from England's last international against Malta. It is to be hoped, both from the England viewpoint and that of Manchester City, that Lee will remain clear of injuries for the duration of the season.

GSK-Slavia steer clear of the drop

Gaganelov of Bulgaria.

ONE-TIME star goalkeeper Simeon Simeonov, and his ill-fated club GSK-Slavia, were the only team to improve their position on the resumption of the league campaign in Bulgaria, winning 4-0 away to newly promoted Gabrovo, who are making a determined bid to stay up in the top class.

This win enabled Slavia to pull themselves away from those immediately threatened by the drop and perhaps the winter break has been profitably spent reorganising the club and remotivating the players.

Meanwhile CSKA continue to lead the way with 27 points: 12 wins, three draws and only one defeat and 44 goals to 13. Despite this consistently good performance Botev Vratza are hanging on only three points behind (goals 28 to 13) with Levski-Spartak on 22. Trakia Plovdiv are fourth but with only 18 points too far behind already to interfere. CSKA won their opening game of the spring campaign 2-0 away to Spartak Pleven (Jekov and the young Georgi Denev); Botev beat Dounav 2-0 at home and Levski, still without the injured "Gundi Asparoukhov", beat Cernomorec Varna 3-0.

Without Asparoukhov, in difficulties since 1966 with a heel injury, Levski-Spartak are playing more defensively (goals 27 to 9) but building a new young team. One of the key men now is outside-right Veselinov who was largely responsible for the victory over Cernomore. Scoring twice himself he was also pulled down to earn a penalty that brought the third goal.

Though CSKA appear destined to win the title once more and resume their long-standing association with the European Cup, one of the most interesting features of the competition is whether or not inside-left Dimiter Yakimov can maintain the goal-scoring form he displayed in the autumn. In the opening half—15 matches—Yakimov, who was formerly a brilliant midfield schemer, suddenly turned scorer and hit 18 goals.

This standard, if maintained, would almost certainly gain him the top European scorer's award, won two years ago by his club-mate Petar Jekov, who has found goals very hard to come by this season. Yakimov's closest rivals in the domestic campaign are Kamenov (Botev) and Vassilev (Lokomotive Plovdiv) with ten each.

FK AUSTRIA IN DISTRESS

THE resumption of the league campaign in Austria brought no relief for champions in distress FK Austria, who are now 12th in the 16-club league and by no means unworried by the relegation threat. Fortunately there are several poorer clubs in Bregenz, Radentheim and SC Wacker (Vienna) not long up from Division II.

The champions' opening game in the second half was a visit to league leaders Austria Salzbourg, whose manager, Karl Schlechta, at one time helped the visitors win two league titles and an FA Cup Final. His team includes several rejects from the Vienna club, including centre-forward Karl Kodat, who scored four goals in a 6-0 win over the *meister*. This was FK Austria's biggest ever defeat against a provincial club and only three points better off than bottom of the table Schwarz Weiss Bregenz they face an uphill struggle.

Neighbours SC Rapid, Vienna's most popular and successful club over the years, have recovered somewhat since engaging former Sturm Graz boss Gerd Springer last summer. A former ice-hockey player, Springer is a disciplinarian and under his control Rapid have restored their fading image somewhat, forcing their way into second place only three points behind Salzbourg.

Confined

The only other clubs in the race are Admira-Energie, who play in Sud Stadt (South of Vienna) and Wacker Innsbruck but SC Rapid's troubles are not confined to playing, players and results. For several years the Viennese clubs have been struggling, trying to persuade a more sophisticated society to provide financial sustenance for too many clubs. At present there are five Division I teams in Vienna ... with Hungarian league games televised live and in full, picked up easily on TV at home.

Only a really top grade team could persuade sufficient Viennese fans to leave their homes and Hungarian TV and on meagre attendances all the clubs have been in financial trouble for years. SC Rapid, it was recently revealed, are approximately £100,000 in the red and if the bank forecloses (as has been hinted) they could face liquidation.

Amalgamation is the obvious answer with sponsorship (the last attempt) a proven failure.

HAJDUK MYSTERY IN YUGOSLAVIA

HAJDUK SPLIT, pressing hard on the heels of Yugoslavia league leaders Partizan, have been once more involved in an abandonment/injury mystery. At Celik (where they were losing 1-0) left-back Boskovic was mysteriously discovered lying unconscious with a head injury. No one could understand how the injury had been sustained and, suspecting that the answer was a projectile thrown from the crowd, the referee abandoned the game with Hajduk only seven minutes away from defeat. Meanwhile Partizan were dropping a vital point (fielding two young debutants) away to Olimpija in Ljubljana (0-0).

On the same day, the opening of the second half of the season, Dinamo Zagreb were beaten at home, 1-0, by Zeleznicar, who were the only winners from amongst the top four. Partizan still lead with 25 points (from 17 games) and Hajduk Split are a point behind, Dinamo and Zeleznicar share third place, four points behind the leaders, but the top two clubs both have a game in hand on their closest rivals. The big win of the re-start, however, was OFK Beograd's 7-1 victory over Radnicki Kragujevac, promoted two years ago and holding their own until recently.

In the scorers' race Santrac (OFK) leads with 12, followed by Musemic (fit again after missing half a dozen games through injury) and Yankovic (Zeleznicar) with ten each.

Though Partizan lead the way, as they have throughout, the situation could change drastically when the FA have considered the three unusual cases pending which all involve Hajduk Split. The first is the appeal against the statutory home defeat when the referee was said to be injured by something thrown from the crowd; the abandoned drawn game "agreed" as a draw at half-time because of a snowstorm and now the Boskovic mystery. If all three cases went the right way for Hajduk, the "pirates" of the Adriatic could find themselves way out in front ... alone.

Toyo Kogyo win in Japan

Terry Paine, skipper of visiting Southampton, exchanges pennants with Aritatsu Ogi, captain of the Japanese national team.

UNFASHIONABLE Toyo Kogyo of Hiroshima took the 1970 Japanese league championship for the first time with a clear five-points' lead over 1969 title-holders Mitsubishi FC, the sports club of the Tokyo industrial organisation. With only a 14-match league a five-point lead is more than considerable but proving their success was no fluke Toyo's goals tally is a stupendous 33 goals for and only 5 against.

The country's best known player, Kamamoto, missed quite a few of his club's league matches through injury but his goal-scoring powers helped Yanmar Diesel (Osaka) win the Emperor's Cup for the second time—1968 was their first success—and Yanmar finished a creditable fourth.

During the Swedish winter break Djurgarden of Stockholm paid a second visit to Japan and demonstrated quite clearly how much the Japanese game has improved in recent years. When the Swedes were last there in 1953 they hammered the Japanese representative team 6-1 and 9-1 but this time it was quite different.

Preparing for the Asian Games, the Japanese used the Swedes to experiment against, fielding many probables and promising youngsters in the first three of their four scheduled matches. Then in the final match they turned out the full side destined for Bangkok and won 1-0. This team included several veterans of the 1968 Olympic Games team including the captain, veteran centre-half Aritatsu Ogi, who is said to be up to the West European standards.

Deserved

In the games staged in Bangkok, champions Burma lost their crown to South Korea while Japan were most unfortunate to clash with the Koreans in the semi-finals. They went out after extra time and deserved second place, having given the Koreans their most difficult test but cramming seven matches in ten days—for economic reasons—proved to be the real winner.

Soccer in USA makes progress

THE popularity of soccer in the United States of America is growing rapidly. Each year sees a vastly increased number of American kids playing the game in colleges and universities throughout the country.

While soccer has yet to firmly establish itself at a professional level—although progress is being made—many thousands of youngsters are playing and enjoying soccer at the expense of the more traditional American sports ... football, baseball and basketball.

Francisco Marcos, born in Portugal but now a naturalised American, is Executive Director of **American International Sports Exchange.** In the last two years his organisation has brought 15 teams to Europe on soccer tours and he plans a further 15 in this year alone.

Involved

The tours, usually lasting 21 days, are an involved exercise. While in Britain, for example, each team plays against university and amateur sides, attends First Division matches and training sessions with leading clubs and participates in training sessions with Lancashire FA coaches in Southport.

"Southport is the home base for most of our tours," says Mr. Marcos, a soccer fanatic with a sincere determination to establish the game in the USA. "We endeavour to establish a friendly, holiday atmosphere, go to training sessions at professional clubs, visit the Bukta factory and watch as many games as possible.

"There are 12,000 players in St. Louis and 600 clubs"

"While in England the boys, aged between 19 and 22 years, can become totally involved in soccer. In the States soccer is still somewhat second-rate, a minor sport. There is little literature for them to read on the game. But in England the position is quite different.

"The boys quickly become wrapped up in an environment which eats, lives and sleeps soccer. They acquire a soccer mentality which is lacking back home."

Money raised

Each boy pays between 600 and 750 dollars for the trip. The money is raised in a huge variety of ways. Concerts, dances and other such money-raising schemes are flogged to acquire the necessary funds.

Francisco Marcos, Executive Director of American International Sports Exchange.

In return Mr. Marcos and his organisation ensures that the boys stay in good hotels and receive a comprehensive soccer education. The demand for tours increases each year—some go to West Germany and Portugal in addition to Britain.

Francisco Marcos graduated from Hartwick College in 1968. He himself went on a tour of England, Denmark and Holland and liked the idea of what

STANDARD LIEGE LEAD

THE Belgian championship has turned into a two-horse race with Standard Liege holding on to a two-point lead from FC Bruges. Only one other club, Anderlecht, has an outside chance but Bruges recently beat them 3-1 and this seems to have killed their hopes. In fact Anderlecht look destined to concentrate on the Cup this season.

Standard have the better defence while Bruges are the scoring kings with 53 goals from their first 21 League games. But Standard have the top scorer in the League in the coloured German Erwin Kostedde, who has 18 goals to his credit. Chasing him is Bruges' ace marksman Raoul Lambert with 15.

Injury-prone Lambert is something of a long throw specialist and is a bustling type of spearhead. He was voted Belgium's best player in the World Cup in Mexico last year. Kostedde, however, is a much more skilful striker.

Standard, who also topped Bruges by four points at the end of last season, are hoping for a hat-trick of championship titles—something they have yet to achieve in their 73-year history.

Union Luxembourg's Nicky Braun looks like becoming one of the most sought-after players on the Continent next season. With 22 goals from his first 19 League games he is already challenging as one of Europe's ace marksmen.

It was Braun's goal which gave the FA Cup to Union last season and the whole side is playing with even more purpose since they signed former Jeunesse Esch full-back Johnny Hofmann in the last close season.

The University of North Carolina soccer team.

they were supposed to do although he thought the venture poorly organised.

Consequently he decided to start American International Sports Exchange and brought his first team over to Britain in March 1969. He now arranges matches in Dublin, Glasgow, Lisbon, Southport and Manchester and a number of other centres.

Advantages

He is enthusiastic about the strides soccer is making in the USA. "Soccer," he says, "offers colleges many advantages over American football. It costs on average 75 dollars to equip a boy to play football and as a result many schools are taking up soccer because they cannot afford football.

"At the Hartwick College there are 1,500 students. Often as many as 6,000 watch their games, paying 1 dollar 50 cents for the privilege. There are 12,000 players in St. Louis and 600 clubs."

A similar pattern is emerging in many regions of the USA. Soccer is being played by Americans from an early age —one area alone boasts of 20 teams of all ages, next year there will be 30— and it is these youngsters who will enable the game to prosper.

The fact that an extensive — and thoroughly worthwhile—organisation like American International Sports Exchange can exist is proof of the expansion being achieved. AISE has ten representatives in Britain, and others in West Germany, Belgium, Switzerland, Spain and Portugal.

"It costs on average 75 dollars to equip a boy to play football"

Marvin Allen, a soccer coach in the USA.

WOOSNAM IN EUROPE

THE American soccer league, a sickly child that has suffered several relapses despite the wealth and attention lavished upon it, will be starting operations again this month. Phil Woosnam, representing the league, has been to Europe recently to invite leading clubs to play exhibition matches in the United States during the summer.

His companion on the trip, Clive Toye, had a more formidable task — to persuade an English or Italian club to loan them a top player before the end of the European season.

Sacrifice

Toye, now manager of the New York side Cosmos, said he realised any club "would be making a big sacrifice in loaning us a player. But they would be making a big contribution to the development of soccer in the United States". One English manager was more sceptical about the request: "It's not co-operation they want," he said, "it's a bloody miracle."

The Washington Darts, International Cup Winners and runners-up in the North American Soccer League, announced the resigning of manager Norman Sutherland.

Seven years

Sutherland, born in Scotland, came to the USA in 1961 at age 20, and founded the Darts as an amateur club in 1963. He has been the club manager for seven years, making him the longest serving manager in US Pro Soccer—and, at age 30, he is also the youngest. Sutherland's record is the best in US soccer. In seven years as manager, the Darts' record is 76 wins, 19 ties, and 33 losses in League and Cup games.

Just recently, Sutherland was re-elected by the Darts stockholders as a club director and vice-president.

Hungarian News

by LESLIE VERNON

Television coverage to be halted

THE spring season opened in Hungary with the usual fanfare and excitement. Three months without football has been a painfully long period for the addicts, and crowds rolled up in an unexpectedly enthusiastic mood. To keep this early impetus on the boil, the Hungarian FA have made two important decisions, which might at last not only halt the dwindling of attendance figures, but also could signal the beginning of a "mini-boom".

Up to now, top League matches were televised live (or "direct" as the Hungarians call it) every week—an obviously suicidal custom. Several clubs tried to fix their kick-off times as not to coincide with the televised matches, but that was often impractical and unfair to the die-hard regular supporters.

Florian Albert, doing extra training in an effort to regain his place in the Hungary team.

On a Sunday, for instance, MTK would kick off at the unearthly hour of 10.30 a.m., a Ferencvaros match would be shown on TV at 3 p.m., and Ujpesti Dozsa would play-off their game at 7 in the evening.

Apart from football-crazy teenagers and hard-working sports journalists, few people had the time, money or the stamina to attend both games and watch the one on TV as well. Consequently, most fans settled for a leisurely morning with the family, telly in the afternoon, and the cinema or theatre in the evening.

This mass television coverage of League matches has now been stopped, only games played on Saturday will be allowed to go out "direct". In the new season, in each round, just one game will be played on Saturday for the benefit of the viewers, and the rest of the programme will be arranged for Sundays without any interference from the cameras.

The other beneficial reform concerns the installation of floodlighting at most First Division grounds. Incredibly, at present, only the Nepstadium, Dozsa and Csepos have floodlighting , and the "Nep" is a low-powered, dismal affair. With the financial help of the FA, the lights of the Nepstadium will be brought up-to-date, and the clubs may apply for long-term interest-free loans for the same purpose.

Floodlights

With this aid, not only domestic League and Cup matches could be played under floodlights, but also international Cup ties. Earlier this season, Honved and Pecs had to stage games against Manchester City and Newcastle amongst others, midweek afternoons. The Honved matches were badly attended, and while the Pecs' ground was full, the local factories and shops were empty—a sudden outbreak of the proverbial 24-hour 'flu.

Less TV and more evening matches should improve the average attendance figures—it is a pity that they did not think of these measures earlier. Prevention is better than cure and some of those lost millions might never come back.

In the general upsurge of early season interest, I was intrigued to hear a few cautious words from Sandor Bares. This elder statesman of Hungarian football is the country's UEFA representative, and his words do carry enormous weight.

Bares advocates the introduction of "the manager" concept in Hungary. Instead of a coach (trainer) running the team and dealing with publicity, scouting, paper-work, etc., he would like to see an English-type manager in charge, who would be responsible for the appointment and supervision of the coaches.

This senior executive would have the same responsibilities as, let's say, Bertie Mee has at Arsenal or Vic Buckingham at Barcelona. I wonder which club will be the first to accept Bares's good advice by reorganising their football set-up. It certainly won't be Dozsa, where senior coach Lajos Baroti would be an ideal choice for manager.

But unfortunately, this is definitely Baroti's last season with the lilac and whites, as next summer he is taking over the national team of Peru.

Encounter

April is a crucial month for Hungary —the real challenge for the Nations Cup begins on the 24th with a home game against France. On the 4th they will play the old enemy Austria at Vienna in the yearly encounter which usually provides a reliable guide of the state of health of these neighbouring countries' football.

Since Hungary have a very good record against both the Austrians and the French, a draw at Vienna and a victory at home are anticipated. Bene has sustained a serious injury in a close-season friendly, but should be ready for the internationals, and the return of Lajos Szucs to active football obviously eases Hoffer's problems.

Szucs, essentially an auxiliary centre-back, can be used as a midfield man, where there is a crying need for experience. Meszoly, in the middle of the defence, Panesics at left-back, Vidats or Szucs in the No. 6 shirt is the most likely combination.

Hoffer will surely persist with the Fazekas-Bene-Kocsis-Kozma forward line, and might give a chance to the Honved 'keeper, Bertalan Bicskei, in goal. Florian Albert has been doing extra training during the winter, and is determined to earn a place in the national eleven.

With "Flori", Szucs and Bene back and on-form, the cherry-red "Magyars" should be much too good for France. Spring is traditionally a season for optimism, so I venture to say that Hungarian football is on its way to recovery —beware rest of Europe!

Cagliari add up the cost of Riva's broken leg

THE broken leg suffered by Cagliari's Luigi Riva when playing for Italy last autumn has cost Cagliari at least 500 million lire (£333,000) and the League Championship, according to the club's vice-president. "Four and a half months ago we were in first place in the table. Cagliari had already eliminated St. Etienne in the European Cup Winners Cup and were preparing to beat Atletico Madrid," Signor Andrea Arrica said in an interview published in the Corriere Dello Sport. "Then on October 30 in Vienna we were thrown into a crisis. Riva's accident was a very grave loss." Signor Arrica said the club was now setting its sights on next year's league championship. But he refused to answer questions about the players the club might be considering buying or selling.

YASHIN NAMES HIS TEAM

Uwe Seeler, one of the players invited to take part in Lev Yashin's farewell match in Moscow on May 27.

LEV YASHIN, the Soviet Union's former international goalkeeper, has named the players to be invited to make up the World Team for a match against Russia in Yashin's farewell next May.

Yashin told an interviewer from the newspaper "Izvestia" that he hoped the following players would accept invitations:

Goalkeepers—Gordon Banks (England), Anzor Kavazashvili (USSR). Backs—Karl-Heinz Schnellinger (West Germany), Bobby Moore (England), Albert Shesternev (USSR), Giacinto Facchetti (Italy), Carlos Alberto (Brazil). Midfield—Bobby Charlton (England), Franz Beckenbauer (West Germany), Wolfgang Overath (West Germany), Sandro Mazzola (Italy). Forwards—Wlodimierz Lubanski (Poland), Florian Albert and Ferenc Bene (Hungary), Dragan Dzajic (Yugoslavia), Georgi Asparoukhov (Bulgaria), Eusebio (Portugal), Pele and Jairzinho (Brazil), Amancio (Spain), George Best (Northern Ireland) and Uwe Seeler (West Germany).

European Fairs Cup

RESULTS AND GOALSCORERS

Third Round

Spartak Trnava (0) 0
FC Koln (1) 1 (Dobias o.g.)

FC Koln (1) 3 (Biskup, pen., Hemmers bach, Rupp)
Spartak Trnava (0) 0

Bayern Munich (0) 2 (Schneider, Muller)
Sparta Rotterdam (1) 1 (Heijeman)

Sparta Rotterdam (1) 1 (Kristensen)
Bayern Munich (2) 3 (Muller 3)

Arsenal (2) 4 (Graham, Kennedy 2, Sammels)
Beveren-Waas (0) 0

Beveren-Waas (0) 0
Arsenal (0) 0

Dinamo Zagreb (2) 2 (Gucmirtl 2)
FC Twente '65 (1) 2 (Pahlplatz, Rene Van Der Kerkhof).

FC Twente '65 (1) 1 (Jeuring)
Dinamo Zagreb (0) 0

Leeds United (5) 6 (Clarke, Chovanek o.g., Bremner, Gray 2, Charlton)
Sparta Prague (0) 0

Sparta Prague (0) 2 (Barton, Urban)
Leeds United (3) 3 (Gray, Clarke, Belfitt)

SC Anderlecht (1) 2 (Ejderstedt, Puis)
Vitoria Setubal (1) 1 (Vagner)

Vitoria Setubal (1) (2) 3 (Guerreiro 2, Vitor Baptista)
SC Anderlecht (0) (1) 1 (Desanghere) after extra time

Hibernian (Scotland) (0) 0
Liverpool (0) 1 (Toshack)

Liverpool (1) 2 (McLaughlin, Boersma)
Hibernian (Scotland) (0) 0

Pecsi Dosza (0) 0
Juventus (1) 1 (Causio)

Juventus (0) 2 (Anastasi 2)
Pecsi Dosza (0) 0

EUROPEAN ROUND-UP

Action from the match between Atletico Madrid and Legia Warsaw. Left to right: Garate, Niedzicka, Luis, Korzeniowski and Zygmut.

DZAJIC SENT OFF AS RED STAR CRASH

DRAGAN DZAJIC, brilliant Yugoslav forward, was sent off as Red Star Belgrade went down to a 3-2 defeat against East German champions Carl-Zeiss Jena in a stormy European Cup, quarter-final, first-leg tie.

Carl-Zeiss led 2-0 after 21 minutes but Red Star fought back to level at 2-2 only for the East Germans to clinch victory with an 86th-minute goal after earlier missing a penalty.

After Vogel had hit the Red Star crossbar in the tenth minute, Strempel and Ducke put Jena in command with two goals. But after Carl-Zeiss had again hit the bar, this time Irmscher was the sufferer, Red Star struck back with a 41st-minute goal by Jankovic.

Dzajic was proving a menace to the East German defence and netted a brilliant equaliser in the 58th minute. But after 70 minutes Dzajic was sent off and then Irmscher missed from the penalty spot before Ducke netted the Carl-Zeiss winner.

Relentless

An unimpressive Chelsea side succumbed to relentless pressure by FC Bruges and slumped to a 2-0 defeat in the first leg of their Cup Winners Cup, quarter-final, tie. Chelsea were seldom a match for the smooth-running Belgian club who have not been beaten at home for the past three years.

The London side, though occasionally dangerous in the second half, were seldom in control against the skilled Belgians. Bruges needed only five minutes to go ahead when Raoul Lambert headed home an inswinging corner by Johnny Thio. Three minutes before the interval Gilbert Marmenhout headed the second goal.

Manchester City's grip on the European Cup Winners Cup was all but broken when they were beaten 2-0 by Gornik Zabrze of Poland in the first leg of their quarter-final match. A crowd of 90,000 packed the Silesian Stadium hoping to see the Polish miners' team avenge their 2-1 defeat by City in the final of last year's competition.

Gornik clinched victory with a two-goal burst just before half-time. Wlodek Lubanski shot Gornik into the lead in the 34th minute and Erwin Wilczek added a second five minutes later.

The match was played in a fiery atmosphere and Jan Banas of Gornik and Tony Towers of City had their names taken. Referee I. Vamvakopoulos of Greece also had to separate Mike Summerbee and Stanislaw Oslizlo after a scuffle in the Gornik penalty area.

Elimination

Celtic looked booked for European Cup elimination after a scoring blitz in the last hour had given Ajax Amsterdam a 3-0 victory in the first leg of their quarter-final encounter. Celtic held out for an hour, pulling men back to smother the Ajax attacks. But when star marksman Johan Cruyff crashed in an unstoppable volley in the 63rd minute, Celtic had no answer.

A foul by George Connelly on Cruyff led to the second Ajax goal after 70 minutes when defender Hulshoff came up to slam the free-kick through the defensive wall. Celtic's fate appeared to be sealed in the final minute when Keizer netted the third.

PSV Eindhoven, in the Cup Winners Cup, completed a night of joy for Holland, by beating Vorwaerts 2-0. Devrindt scored in the 48th minute and Van Den Dungen added a second after 80 minutes.

Contained

Legia Warsaw contained Atletico Madrid in Spain and went home pleased at having lost by the only goal of the game. Adelardo Rodriguez kept Atletico's chances alive with a goal after 22 minutes.

English champions Everton struggled against Panathinaikos from Greece and it wasn't until the last minute that substitute David Johnson scored the goal that gave Everton a 1-1 draw. Antoniadis had put the Greek club ahead after 81 minutes.

A goal by skipper Frank McLintock and a second by Peter Storey gave Arsenal a 2-1 win over FC Cologne in the quarter-finals of the Fairs Cup. The scorer for Cologne was Karl-Heinz Thielen.

Olympics join Asante after "walk-out"

A WALK-OUT by players forced the cancellation of a Ghanaian Cup match as rivalry between Accra's two leading soccer clubs boiled over.

The Ghanaian Sports Council announced that the scheduled quarter-final replay in Accra between Accra Hearts of Oak and Accra Great Olympics had been cancelled following a pre-match walk-out by Hearts players.

A statement by the Hearts executive said the Hearts players had walked out of their training camp "unceremoniously" following a decision to nominate Olympics and not Hearts for the African Club Championship.

The statement added that attempts to persuade the players to return to their training camp had failed and Hearts had withdrawn from the Ghanaian Cup Competition.

Representatives

Mr. Reginald Amponsah, Minister of Education, Sport and Culture, announced that Olympics had been nominated to join Asante Kotoko, the holders, as Ghana's representatives in the next African Club Championship.

It was originally planned to decide Ghana's second team in a match between the League champions Olympics and winners of the Cup competition.

But February 21 was the closing date for African Club Cup entries and Ghana's Cup competition had not reached the semi-final stage, Mr. Amponsah met with soccer officials to choose between Hearts, the League runners-up, and Olympics.

After the decision to nominate Olympics, Hearts officials protested at the ruling before being calmed by Mr. Amponsah.

Before the cup replay, hundreds of police and soldiers had been put on stand-by to prevent trouble between the rival factions.

BOOK REVIEW

IT has seemed for some time—but wrongly so—that there is little left that Brian Glanville has not written about in football. Yet whenever he does put pen to paper the result is always refreshing and different. This not only reflects the deep feeling he has for the game but a knowledge which can be transmitted to the reader in the style of one who uses words to clarify rather than clog explanation.

In The Puffin Book of Football, Puffin Books, 20p, Glanville traces the beginnings of the game, follows its development and discusses its future. Significant events like the World Cup, the influence of the Hungarians in the 1950s, the emergence of the Brazilians and the revival in this country, etc., are woven into the story which picks out the personalities and traces the tactical trends.

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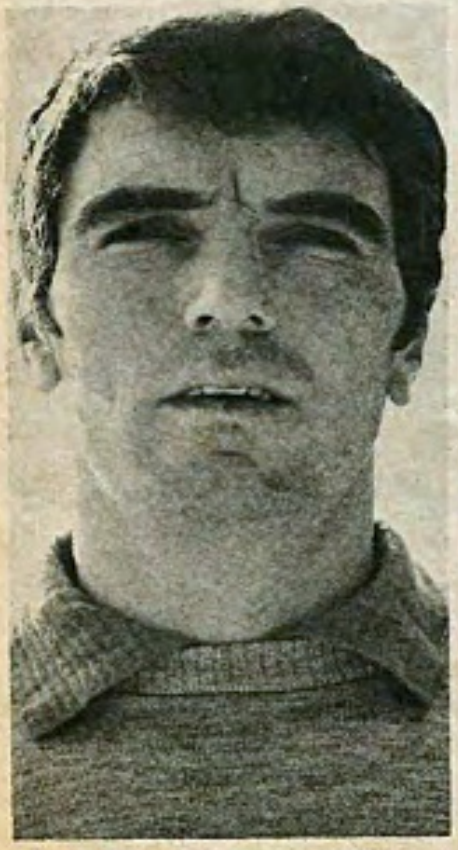
COMMON MARKET POSES A PROBLEM

WHEN, last February, the Executive of the Common Market, in Brussels, decided that it was illegal for member countries to exclude professional footballers from other member countries, they put the cat thoroughly among the pigeons. Mr. Alan Hardaker, the Secretary of the Football League, came out with a cry of pain and rage, suggesting that this might be the end of our cherished British football, as we know it. But England, at least, is not yet even a member of the Common Market. For those countries, such as France, Belgium and Italy, which are, the outlook is quite different, the application altogether more immediate.

Certain of the Italian clubs may well rejoice. Among the managers, Helenio Herrera has for a long while been advocating the return of foreign stars which, he believes, would increase the crowds (they have increased in any case, this season) and improve the standard of play. But for many years past, now, foreign footballers have been barred from Italy, with a resolute consistency which has surprised those of us who remember the vacillating 1950s.


Dino Zoff, recalled to the Italian team against Spain.

Italy's humiliating defeat by North Korea in the 1966 World Cup made it inevitable that foreign players would continue to be barred for some time to come. The Italian victory, somewhat fortuitous and unconvincing though it was, in the European Nations Cup finals of 1968, appeared to confirm the wisdom of the policy. Then, in 1970, came what was almost an apotheosis; Italy actually reached the Final of the World Cup in Mexico. That she was scarcely the second best team was neither here nor there; the records state, and will always state, that she finished second. This, and this alone, it seems to me, accounts for the rise in attendances in Italy this season, for certainly it cannot be said that the dour, defensive football is any more pleasing to the eye. It will also be interesting to see just what protracted effect, if any, the defeat of the national team by Spain, in Cagliari, is going to have.

Conversation

We can be quite certain of one thing, however, If any single Italian club buys a foreign star—and surely some are bound to—then all the rest must follow suit, so that the sad old Gadarene rush will begin all over again. I believe Milan had an option on Franz Beckenbauer of Bayern Munich, which they would no doubt be most happy to confirm. Yet I remember a conversation with the mature young Milan president, dott. Franco Carraro, in which he pointed out to me that a player such as Anquilletti, the right-back bought from Atalanta, had been given his chance in the Milan team precisely because they could not buy foreign stars.

It seems to me that while the Italian Federation have at times been slightly hysterical about the effects on the game of foreign players — keeping out the rising Italian generation, and all that— in the main they have been proved right. The quality of the Italian national team, *pace* that defeat by Spain, in Cagliari, has testified to the improvement of native players.

Foreign stars

Instead of buying foreign stars, Milan will incorporate into their team such Italian players as Biasiolo, the half-back from Lanerossi Vicenza; who no doubt would never have arrived at San Siro, had Beckenbauer been there. Or perhaps he would have arrived, and found himself permanently a reserve; a circumstance which might still arise were Beckenbauer now to be signed. Juventus, meanwhile, that most aristocratically northern of all northern Italian clubs, have actually gone as far south, in terms of origin, as Sicily and Sardinia; the provenance, respectively, of Pietro Anastasi and Cucureddu, though they were signed, respectively, from Varese and Brescia.

I recall that when I was living in Italy, in May, 1953, a ban on foreign players was imposed not by the Federation at all, but by the Government. It was, in fact, the most blatant imaginable piece of politicking, and it is constantly being brought back to me by the fact that its author, dott. Andreotti, is so often in the news. This very morning, indeed, I glanced at a newspaper and found an

Spanish goalkeeper Iribar saves during the Italy-Spain international.

article from its Rome correspondent on ... Signora Andreotti.

What happened was that, on the eve of some very tense and very tight elections, which the Christian Democratic Government were frightened they'd lose, Hungary came to Rome and beat Italy 3-0. Since that was the Hungary of Puskas and Kocsis, the Hungary which, a few months later, came to Wembley and beat the pants off England, this was scarcely a disgrace. As one who was there, I thought the Italians played quite well. But ... it was the opening of the Olympic Stadium, Hungary was a Communist country, the 1956 Revolution there was far away, and the Italian Left made noisy propaganda. It was the cynical corruption of capitalist Italian football which had brought the national team so low.

The Demochristians, quick as a wink, retorted with the so-called Andreotti Veto, promulgated by the then Minister of the Interior, who in 1970 tried, without success, to form a cabinet. It forbade more foreign players to be imported to Italy, though it did leave behind such giants as Gunnar Gren, Gunnar Nordahl, Nils Liedholm, John Hansen and Carl Praest; and it wasn't long before the *oriundi* (players of Italian descent) were filtering in again from Latin America.

One great attraction, curiously enough, to Italian clubs is that at a time when the quarter million pound transfer is virtually a commonplace, and may get you only a commonplace player, foreign stars can actually be cheap.

Situation

This was long the case with Scandinavian footballers who, since their countries' football was not professionalised, came for nothing. Just think of the mouth-watering situation; Skoglund, Hamrin, the Hansens, the Nordahls and the rest coming without benefit of transfer fee, with merely their signing-on bonuses to pay them!

Even today, Swedish, Danish and Norwegian players would be either free, or relatively cheap; though there would be no free Danes in future if professionalism there goes ahead as planned. At present, these bright-haired footballers are pouring into France, West Germany, Scotland and, sometimes, Belgium; none of which could begin to match the wages the Italian clubs would pay them.

The Belgian Federation have shown, however, that something can be done to limit the flood. Fining Standard Liege, this season, for using more than the permitted three foreigners in one game, they rejected an appeal based on Common Market practice (then less well defined) by pointing out that while you could *sign* as many co-Common Market foreigners as you wished, that did not mean you could actually *play* them.

On such legal technicalities the position may now rest. It seems to me a pity that, Common Market or no Common Market, national football federations and leagues cannot be left to decide what is best for their own country. Some bitter struggles in the international courts may lie ahead.

George Best in action for Manchester United. Players of the Best calibre would be in great demand throughout Europe if signing restrictions were to be lifted.

Italian football drops into the red

ITALIAN soccer, which produced the current European Champions and runners-up in last year's World Cup, is deeply in debt, and the situation is getting worse all the time.

The total debt of all the clubs, 16 First Division, 20 Second Division and 168 semi-professional was said at a recent meeting of the National Soccer League Committee to have reached the stunning total of 32,000 million lire (£21,333,333).

Even the First Division clubs which produce the stars and draw increasingly large crowds are in trouble; their debt is estimated at more than 10,000 million lire (£6,666,667).

Interest paid by all the clubs on their debts is estimated at 1,150 million lire (£766,667) per year, and as each year's deficit is carried forward to the next season the situation grows steadily worse. Some clubs survive through the pockets of their wealthy directors and supporters, such as Turin's Juventus, which is half-owned by the wealthy Agnelli family, who also own the giant Fiat motor company.

But even the two Milan clubs, considered to be the richest in Italy, constantly finish the season in deficit. After the 1969–70 season Internazionale showed a loss of 68 million lire (£45,333) and AC Milan were in the red by 47 million lire (£31,333).

The level of debt run up by the clubs is attributed mainly to the high wages and bonuses paid to players and managers, and to the costs involved in keeping players in training camps for extended periods and in expensive hotels while going to away matches.

In addition there are the astronomical transfer fees frequently paid for players to move from one club to another.

Juventus paid Varesa 600 million lire (£400,000) for Pietro Anastasi in the summer of 1968. The following year they paid Sampdoria of Genoa the same amount for Roberto Vieri.

That same year Internazionale paid the same record fee to Cagliari for Roberto Boninsegna.

These are the top prices paid for only a few star players, but transfer fees in the region of 500 million lire (£333,000) are relatively common.

Players' wages reach, in some cases, as much as 40 million lire (£26,667) a year, but the addition of match bonuses which have mostly ignored the official ceiling of 120,000 lire (£80) per match can raise the total near to 100,000 lire (£66,667) which was the amount Cagliari star Luigi Riva was estimated to have earned last season.

Managers do not drop far behind their players. An average First Division manager is paid between 50 and 80 million lire (£33,000–£53,000) per year.

AC Milan coach Nerro Rocco, one of the highest paid in Italy.

The European Football Union has invited its 33 member Federations to attend an extraordinary congress in Monte Carlo beginning on June 16.

UEFA said its Executive Committee had decided that a number of European soccer problems needed solving before the regular congress in 1972, and the main topic of discussion would be the situation of Europe in world football.

The Union has also sent a questionnaire to the Federations asking for attendances statistics for the last three seasons together with estimated reasons for increases or declines.

On the basis of the results UEFA will formulate suggestions for attracting greater numbers of spectators.

FIFA has announced that invitations would be sent to 136 affiliated National Associations to compete in the 1974 World Cup competition.

FIFA expected a record number of entries for the competition. A total of 71 countries entered for the 1970 World Cup.

The groupings for the preliminary competition will be decided by the FIFA organising committee at a meeting in Düsseldorf, West Germany, on July 15 and 16 this year. Entries must be received by FIFA before July 1.

The itinerary for the Welsh soccer team's six-match New Zealand tour has been announced by New Zealand Football Association chairman, Mr. Jackie Cowie.

The itinerary is: Sunday, June 27, v. Auckland at Auckland; Wednesday, June 30, v. Wellington, at Wellington; Saturday, July 3, v. Canterbury at Christchurch; Sunday, July 4, v. Otago at Dunedin; Wednesday, July 7, v. Central League at Palmerston North; Saturday, July 10, v. New Zealand at Auckland.

Eef Mulders of PSV Eindhoven (centre striped shirt), pictured in action during a Dutch league match.

DUTCH SUCCESS IN EUROPE

ONE of the most startling developments on the European soccer scene has been the recent run of success by clubs from the hitherto less fashionable countries like Holland and East Germany. Dutch teams in particular have enjoyed unexpected triumphs led by Ajax Amsterdam who reached the European Cup Final in 1969, but even this was bettered when Feyenoord won the trophy last year and also became the first non-Latin club to clinch the unofficial world championship.

Just to prove that this is no temporary spell, Ajax are again in the quarter-finals of the Champions Cup this season—Feyenoord having failed under the away-goal-double ruling against UT Arad (1-1, 0-0), without losing a game! Apart from these giants Holland also have PSV Eindhoven in the quarter-finals of the Cup Winners Cup.

Solitary

For East Germany, Carl Zeiss Jena in the Champions Cup and Vorwärts (East Berlin) in the Cup Winners tournament, also stand in the quarter-finals, while their solitary Fairs Cup entry, Dynamo Dresden, fell to England's best side, Leeds, only on away-goals, having lost by a penalty at Elland Road 0-1, whilst winning 2-1 at home.

PSV is based on the world-famous Philips (radio, TV, electronics, etc.) works at Eindhoven, where it boasts nine senior and 17 junior teams. Their first squad is coached by the German, Kurt Linder, who formerly played for Karlsruhe, Young Boys of Berne (Switzerland) and Rapid Vienna and is not to be confused with Dieter Lindner from Frankfurt, as erroneously reported in the Dutch Letter in WORLD SOCCER's October issue.

For the past two years PSV have entered the CWC tourney, although they are not the country's cup-holders. In 1969 they lost the Final after a replay to Feyenoord, who were also champions. Last year they bowed out to Ajax who also completed the "double".

by ARTHUR ROTMIL

They now boast the most expensive goalkeeper in the world: Holland's No. 1, Jan Van Beveren (22), who joined them last season from Sparta Rotterdam for £120,000, plus goalkeeper Doesburg in exchange, plus the installation of floodlights by the Philips Co.! Their defence revolves around the Danish sweeper Henning Munk Jensen, while another Dane, Bengt Schmidt-Hansen, plays in the forward line. In addition, PSV have acquired the services of Belgium's redoubtable striker and World Cup star Johann Devrindt, formerly of Anderlecht.

Home-bred internationals include centre-forward Willy Van der Kuylen, the League's top scorer last term with 26 goals, the midfield organisers Plun Strik and Wietze Veenstra, a 24-year-old noted for his long-range shots. PSV visited Crystal Palace recently and impressed with their fast, direct and skilful football which earned them a fine 4-2 victory.

Vorwärts have more international experience after six Champions Cup campaigns and one previous bid in the CWC. This term they put out two of the favourites in Italy's cup-holders Bologna—admittedly under the "away-goals" rule (0-0, 1-1) and the still fearsome Benfica, following a decisive penalty contest after the scores had been 0-2 and 2-0. The team will be handicapped by the long winter break since December, when Vorwärts were surprisingly pushed back into eighth place with this record: P 13, W 4, D 5, L 4, goals 24-24.

Upbringing

This East German Army team has been the country's most successful side with six League titles to their credit. The club are managed by Colonel Willi Steinhöfel, who believes in military discipline and strict upbringing of youth. Naturally, the political education is of primary importance in this set-up. The players not only exercise their soccer skills but through their example are also expected to demonstrate the allegedly superior socialist way of life. Not surprisingly a member of the board is also a leading political commentator, Herr Von Schnitzler.

The soccer team coach is Fritz Belger, who places great emphasis on all-rounders and especially two-footed players. The team has a relatively high average age with eight men around 28 years old. Vorwärts have six internationals, among whom inside-forward and captain Jürgen Nöldner, their most consistent scorer (over 150 goals since 1958) and boasting over 30 caps. About that number have Gerhard Körner and the senior Hans-Dieter Krampe (32), already 16 years with the club. Another regular is Otto Frässdorf (28 and 32 caps) a full-back, renowned for his upfield sorties. Next the speedy Rainer Nachtigall and keeper Alfred Zulkowski.

NORMAN CUTLER says

Oh what a week it was...it really was

SUPERB SPAIN BEAT ITALY . . .

Real Madrid's Amancio . . . played for Spain against Italy.

"OH what a week it was ... it really was." The perfect parody for the return to Madrid of Spain's international side after their sensational 2-1 victory over Italy in Cagliari.

Barajas Airport had never seen such scenes. Passing through the international exit 15 minutes early, the whole party was almost swept to the ground by a multitude of wildly excited fans and suffocated by flying flowers and streamers. They screamed "Kubala! Kubala! Kubala!" and mobbed the proud smiling Hungarian.

They embraced and kissed all who arrived on the Alitalia DC 9 (a couple of girls' hung round my neck until I explained that Pirri and Uriate scored the goals, then they left me standing). Players and officials were trapped by admiring, singing crowds. Unable to move they patiently signed autographs while loudspeakers continually blared warnings that connecting planes to Bilbao, Barcelona and Valencia were waiting to leave.

Bombshell

Several were rescued by friends, others good humouredly fought their way to safety, and two—who shall be nameless—sought refuge in the "ladies" (I heard no screams) ... the smiling, happy Federation President D. José Luis Perez Paya shook hands with everybody.

What a picture book ending it was to five days that shook Europe and had all the ingredients of fiction.

It started with a shattering bombshell dropped by a Madrid newspaper on the eve of departure. "Kubala will drop Amancio and Gallego ... for indiscipline." Laughable, had the news not appeared in such reputable newspapers. No one really knew what it was all about but there was certainly something.

All three players kept together, glum and silent at the airport. There was an atmosphere on the journey and Kubala, although outwardly cheerful and friendly to everyone, was testy and sharp when any question was asked about the "indiscipline". He referred all enquiries to the Federation President.

Tension eased at Elmas Airport (Cagliari) ... the hundreds of well-wishers

Italian goalkeeper Dino Zoff cannot prevent Spain from scoring.

with waving banners made sure of that. So did the pretty Sardinian girls in national dress who presented everyone with a bouquet of carnations. But hovering everywhere were Italian journalists, probing and seeking confirmation of the "Amancio-Gallego" mystery story, sent ahead by news agencies. It was one story the reporters never got.

The Spanish HQ was in the Hotel Adamar, a beautiful dream world near the sea and hidden by pine woods, at Santa Margherita di Pula, 25 miles from the capital. Next morning light training, a kick-about (wearing civvies) in Stadium Santa Elia and shopping in the sun-drenched, but windy Cagliari. One wag on the coach called "Keep away from the bracelets, skipper." Amancio wasn't amused ... he was already in enough trouble. In any case you have to be very hilarious to make Amancio smile.

Discipline

Kubala kept everyone on tenterhooks. He neither confirmed nor denied the mysterious discipline "affaire" ... nor did he hint at his line-up. He was, in fact, waiting for Italy's announcement. When it eventually came Ladislav merely looked at his president and smiled.

Ferrucio Valcareggi (Italy's manager) included the Napoli goalkeeper, Dino Zoff, and Sandro Mazzola, and left out all the Cagliari stars, Domenghini, Albertossi, Niccolai and Gori. His reason: "I cannot sacrifice national interests for those of the Gagliaritanos ... Mazzola and Rivera on the right is a perfect partnership." (*How that man changes his opinion.*)

Spanish camp reaction was "He's crazy", and "Gracias a Dios" ("Thank God") ... the Sardinians, initially stunned, rose in a ferocious, angry wave against the Italian manager.

Later, after tactical talks with the squad, Kubala announced his line-up. Amancio and Gallego were in ... Marcial first substitute ... and any disciplinary measures ("I'm not yet convinced any are necessary," said the Federation President) could wait. So that was it! Valcareggi had blindly fallen for the oldest bluff in football. Believing his opponents to be understrength, he experimented, and left out Domenghini and Gori, the two men Spain most feared.

The Saturday was a glorious day for the international début of Cagliari's new ground (Stadia Santa Elia) ... but a day of shame for Sardinian football. The Italian authorities would be perfectly justified if they never played another game in Sardinia.

Vendetta

Forty-thousand spectators launched a vicious vendetta, 90 minutes of boos and abuse, against manager Valcareggi, Sandro Mazzola (who replaced their idol Domenghini) and the whole Italian side; all because no Cagliari player was included in the national side. Their behaviour, insults and language were disgraceful, they made Rome's notorious crowd appear like a simpering girls' choir. Long before the end members of the Spanish party were the only ones applauding the Italian side. And the running track around the playing pitch looked like a Van Gogh painting, covered with oranges and mandarines thrown at players and officials from stands and terraces.

The preliminaries, at l e a s t, were humorous. Giacino Facchetti (6 ft. 2 in.), playing in his 57th international, could hardly find the 5 ft. 4 in. Amancio to shake hands, French referee, Fraucier, was even shorter, 5 ft. 2 in. It was a David and Goliath scene ... and that's how it ended, with the Giants of Italy, five to one on favourites, crashing to Kubala's "No chance" new-look Spain.

Spain won because of their calculated copybook football, tremendous spirit and shrewd tactics. They were quite superior to Italy.

I'm a reporter not a technical expert, so let people more proficient tell the story. Ferrucio Valcareggi: "I never imagined Kubala could produce such a team ... it was a first-class surprise. They played beautiful football, especially intelligent and with tactics that completely confused and outplayed my team ... it was a victory well merited."

The captain, Giacinto Facchetti: "This Spanish team would have won the Mexico World Cup, easily. They surprised us, demoralised us and outplayed us." Domenghini: "I'm happy the public wanted me so much ... but sorry that they acted the way they did. Spain would have won even had I played."

And Gianni Rivera: "We didn't expect this defeat ... but I doubt if anyone could have beaten Spain today."

Instructions

The Spanish party was naturally delirious but Kubala, as usual, was cautious: "We won because everyone carried out their instructions exactly ... we fought from the first second, and merited our victory. But there is a long way to go and that we cannot lose sight of, or rest on our laurels."

Pirri—who with Claramunt (Valencia) and Uriate (Atletico Bilbao) was one of the architects of victory through completely dominating the midfield—said laughingly: "Mission completed." Today Italy were inferior to Spain because we played our best game, forming perfect containing triangles and attacking as Brazil did in the World Cup."

Spanish Federation President, D. Jose Luis Perez Paya: "It was a grand and important triumph ... but more vital it showed our potential."

Final comment came from Signor Franchi (President of the Italian Federation): "It's a good job we weren't playing in a place where the local fruit is coconuts."

News from France....ANDRÉ DUCLOS

Sights set firmly on Europe

ST. ETIENNE and the expensively assembled Olympique Marseilles team plough on at the head of the French League, making it irredeemably a two-horse race, the rest of the field strung out hopelessly behind them. One thing seems pretty clear. Though Marseilles are getting immensurably the best crowds in the Championship, crowds which sometimes reach the dizzying height, for France, of nearly 30,000, their sights must be set on European football, to recoup their colossal expenditure.

Pantelic, the Yugoslav international goalkeeper, and Gilbert Gress, from VfB Stuttgart, are only the latest in their long list of costly signings. Josip Skoblar cost a large fee from Hanover 96, Roger Magnusson was purchased from Juventus, Charly Loubet came from Nice as an established French international, while Joseph Bonnel was another.

St. Etienne, who have dominated the Championship for so long, cannot remotely attain such large attendances. A recent home game against the far from exciting Valenciennes, when St. Etienne were running level top of the League with Marseilles, Valenciennes being equal bottom with Bastia, was watched by a mere 12,100 spectators. Very well, it was a game between top and bottom, but by British standards the crowd was derisory in numbers.

Red-haired

That day, the excellent Malian, Salif Keita, went off after 16 minutes and was replaced by ... yet another Yugoslav in the clever Samardzic, who proceeded to play an excellent game; though the goal of the game was scored by a defender, Bosquier—another French international who cost a great deal of money. With still a further French star, Robert Herbin, the red-haired player who was hurt against England at Wembley in the 1966 World Cup, playing splendidly in midfield, St. Etienne are more of a French combination than Marseilles.

The Common Market executive's ruling on foreign players will not make a great deal of difference to France; except in the sense that if Italy opens her gates again, the Scandinavians will no longer be quite so keen to rush there; while players like Josip Skoblar—25 goals in his first 22 games—may prefer the idea of Italy. Needless to say, a still tottering French League cannot possibly hope to offer the inducements of the Italians. On two recent, consecutive Sundays, there were 90,000 spectators at nine games, which means an average of 10,000, but the following Sunday, there were 76,000 at ten games. Hardly the stuff on which dreams of glory are built.

French international Henri Michel, in action against Rumania.

As against that, a game in the Centre section of the national division, a local derby between Quevilly and Rouen, drew no fewer than 14,791 spectators; believe it or not a larger crowd than any that day in the First Division; though the average is nearer 2,000-odd.

The National Division (North, South and Centre) has now succeeded the Second, and has also drawn into its web such previously amateur teams—in name, at least—as Quevilly, whose attack is led by the famous Daniel Horlaville. A star of the French team which acquitted itself so well in the Mexican Olympiad, Horlaville has already been capped by the full national team, though he has never played a First Division game; and needless to say he has been coveted by many a well-known club. There have been moments, among them some this season, when he seemed about to give way, but he has always finished by staying loyal to Quevilly.

For some mighty "fallen" such as Monaco, not all that long ago the French champions, to play in the National League (South) really doesn't make much difference. Their tiny, charmingly picturesque stadium, which once provoked a poem by Alan Ross, still attracts—if that is the word—the 2,000 or so spectators who came when Monaco were riding high.

Among other distinguished Yugoslavs in France this season are Ivica Osim, at Strasbourg, and the veteran Galic, the man who was sent off in the Olympic Final of 1960 in Rome because Lo Bello, the referee, knew Serbo-Croat; enough, at any rate, to know a Sicilian's mother was being insulted.... Galic is now with Reims. Though back in the First Division, Reims are labouring in the lower reaches of the league, a very pale reminder of the great team of Raymond Kopa's day.

Veteran

But there is encouragement for the newly and hastily thrown together Paris St. Germain team which, playing out on the tiny St. Germain stadium—another which takes about a couple of thousand spectators per match—the Parisian side is top of the Centre group of the national division. So it ought to be, considering the money which has been poured out on such international defenders as Djorkaeff, the Arab full-back, and Mitoraj, not to mention the veteran Cruz, who long ago played for Benfica and Portugal, at left-half, then left-back.

The French Football Federation have been tussling with the French television people, threatening to go to the barricades; or at least, which comes to much the same thing, banning television from their stadia in perpetuity. Much ill feeling was caused when the ORTF, or television network, refused to transmit the game between Rennes and Quevilly. Jacques Georges, the President of the FFF, accused the television of hiding behind a strike as the excuse, when the truth was that they disdained to show players who were wearing the names of a product. Georges pointed out that televised matches regularly showed ten or 20 advertisements around the ground, and accused the ORTF of inconsistency. "We want to be treated on terms of equality with the other sports," he thundered. "We demand justice."

Feyenoord slump

by HANS MOLENAAR

THE months of March and April look like deciding the future of Ernst Happel, coach of Feyenoord At the end of February things looked gloomy for Feyenoord. Their Austrian coach had not decided whether to sign a new contract with the 1970 European Cup holders or return to Austria.

In addition, rumours suggest that Happel may move to Ajax, favourites to take over from Feyenoord as Dutch champions this year.

Surprising defeat

Feyenoord were beaten 2-0 by ADO at the end of February; a somewhat surprising defeat in view of the fact that ADO lost a week previously to FC Utrecht. Schoenmaker and Hestad were the ADO scorers but Feyenoord were slow in attack with their defence too willing to take risks. Ove Kindvall (out of form for months now) was replaced by Boskamp.

The Dutch national team beat a combined Luxembourg side (a few professionals from Belgium and France with amateurs from their own clubs) 6-0 but made little impression.

The first goal was the gift of the referee from Albania and in the first half in particular Cruyff and Keizer had a field day. Between them they netted four goals ... and a third Ajax player, full-back Wim Surbier, scored the last goal.

Ernst Happel, will he stay with Feyenoord or look for a post elsewhere?

Sad story of Gutendorf...

KICKERS OFFENBACH, of West Germany, have fired their coach, Rudi Gutendorf, the man who was brought to the club by president and millionaire Horst Canellas.

Kickers won promotion to the *Bundesliga* from the regional second division thanks to the coaching of Yugoslav Cajkovski. But he had only a six months' contract and returned to Yugoslavia with Dynamo Zagreb.

He was replaced by Aki Schmidt but this former Borussia Dortmund player didn't last long. Gutendorf took over but he, too, came under the Canellas axe.

Coached

Gutendorf was with MSV Duisburg between 1963 and 1965, had one season with Stuttgart and then went to the USA where he opened a soccer school. He managed and coached the St. Louis Stars but returned home and joined Schalke 04.

After several rows between Gutendorf and President Siebert he was fired.

Mr. Canellas, meanwhile, has announced that he will coach Offenbach, although he doesn't possess the necessary official qualifications and will have to find a front man.

Rudi Gutendorf, sacked as coach of Kickers Offenbach.

GOAL FAMINE EVIDENT

DEFENSIVE methods and a goal famine in the First Division of the English Football League are the principal factors behind the alarming slump in attendance figures this season. Since British coaches began to use systems, tactical deployment and special duties for individual specialists, the goalscoring ratio in League matches has steadily declined. England's World Cup win in 1966 produced a temporary rise in gates but the world champions' cautious methods, which were subsequently copied by most clubs, are mainly responsible for today's crisis.

Out of the 92 League clubs no fewer than 59 report a partly serious drop in attendances. Even such an attractive team as Manchester United have so far this season lost on average nearly 6,000 fans per match! There is little doubt that such figures are directly related to the poor standard of football but above all to the shortage of goals. Ten years ago the famous Spurs side achieved the only Cup and League "double" of the century. In 42 League games they scored 115 goals. In 1963, as runners-up the Spurs hit another 111, but since then no English First Division outfit has managed to score 100 goals in a season.

This downward trend has its origin in the evolution which has taken place in English soccer during the last decade. Ten years ago few British managers worried much about the playing methods of their opponents and had practically no special tactical advice to offer their own teams. Most of them were simply convinced that they could impose their system on others. Typical was, for example, the attitude of the famous Wolves manager and former international star Stan Cullis.

Arrogance

When asked by journalists before the European Cup quarter-final against Barcelona (1960) whether he had seen this renowned Spanish side in action, he was quoted as saying with a mixture of arrogance and naïvety: "No, but we shall see them tonight—against us." The result: Wolves crashed in Spain 0-4 and were beaten 5-2 for good measure at home.

But a lot has since changed in British football. Manchester United's manager Matt Busby was the first to personally inspect foreign opponents and prepare his team accordingly. Today, the spies, scouts, films, etc., as well as serious pre-match talks with emphasis on tactics belong to the normal duties of an English club manager.

With the almost scientific approach to the game, more time than ever is devoted to the study of methods, plans and dispositions. A number of clubs copied for instance the defend-and-counter style of Inter Milan, so successful between 1963-67, including their use of the "sweeper" (Picchi) and the so fashionable overlapping full-back (Facchetti). An even greater impression created, of course, the national team winning the 1966 World Cup, the most defensive formation with the fewest goals scored, ever to win the world crown.

Characteristic of the way in which the most dangerous strikers have been shackled is the fact that currently fewer hat-tricks have been scored in the top Division, than ever before. As I write, there have been only six hat-tricks so far. By comparison there were at this stage ten years ago 25 already, Jimmy Greaves (then with Chelsea) claimed four, including five goals in one game v. West Bromwich Albion. Such exploits, however, clearly belong to the past. There has not been such a dearth of hat-tricks since 1898!

Tottenham goalkeeper Pat Jennings collects the ball during the Football League Cup final against Aston Villa.

Marksman

The reason lies with strengthened defences and particular guards on opposing star marksmen. The coaches study details of their adversaries' weak points and devise plans to destroy them. Not surprisingly the game in this country has become progressively tougher, not to say brutal—as ordered by the bosses.

Most schemes seem to be designed to prevent others from playing their usual game. But the craving to destroy rather than create, will eventually ruin the last semblance of beauty in English soccer. It will also—if it isn't checked in time—drive the last spectators out of the grounds.

In view of these depressing facts and figures, we should applaud the recently publicised ruling of the European Common Market Executive Commission that says: "FAs of member countries cannot restrict the number of foreign players clubs sign."

If Britain joins the Common Market, then English football could receive a much-needed shot in the arm. The possible engagement of colourful and artistic foreign stars would lift the stereotyped and predictable pattern of soccer so often experienced in League matches in this country, out of the

ARTHUR ROTMIL examines the alarming drop in attendance figures in England

present rut. The importation of fresh ideas could—like the "Hungarian revolution" of 1953—improve the standard of football at all levels. England's national team benefited enormously from increased international contacts which helped them to win the 1966 World Cup. By opening her doors to exciting individuals with flair and imaginative approach and through well-regulated integration, England can hope eventually to win the world trophy for the second time, while her clubs might add to that solitary European Cup win of 1968.

Andy Lochhead and Phil Beal clash during the Football League Cup final at Wembley, won 2-0 by Spurs.

Triumphs

Those who point to the so-called "unhealthy" state of the game in France and Italy would do well to acquaint themselves with these facts: Italian clubs scored their greatest triumphs in international competitions precisely whilst employing foreigners. Their record in the major European Cup tournaments speaks for itself and is far superior to the achievements of English clubs.

The Italians have produced three world club champions (Inter twice and AC Milan once), four European Cup winners (Inter and AC Milan twice each), two Cup Winners Cup holders (Fiorentina and AC Milan), while in addition, three teams also reached the European Cup final (Fiorentina, Inter and AC Milan) and one the final of the CWC contest (Fiorentina). These three clubs employed in these finals a total of 16 foreign players as follows:

Without these mercenaries it is doubtful whether these clubs would have claimed similar successes. Altafini still holds the record of 14 goals in one European Cup season, Hamrin, Peiro and Sormani have all proved their scoring powers with many vital goals, Suarez was the brains behind Inter's attacking schemes, whilst Schnellinger remains the pillar of AC Milan's defence.

In France, soccer is kept alive by the 76 imported foreign players. Without these stars who bring novelty, artistry and a touch of adventure to the game, the French League would have collapsed years ago. A pity that the new challengers for the title, Olympique Marseille, had to spend a lot of money to buy ... a Frenchman back from Germany!

Gilbert Gress, 29, with four caps to his credit, returned from VfB Stuttgart to his native land. He was worth every franc, for as a Frenchman he doesn't come under the FA ruling, allowing to field no more than two foreigners at a time. Olympique hope to take the championship away from St. Etienne, who have been holding on to it for the past four years. Gilbert Gress and the recently engaged Yugoslav goalkeeper Ilja Pantelic, will strengthen the team in which the Yugoslav Josip Skoblar and the Swede Roger Magnusson played a dominating role.

Defending champs St. Etienne will fight all the way to keep their crown and they also rely on foreign stars like the African from Mali, Salif Keita, the Yugoslavs Samardzic and Durkovic in addition to their French internationals Revelli, Herbin, Bereta, Larqué, etc. Foreigners have featured in French football ever since the game was introduced there, simply because the home products proved insufficient.

Naturalise

The choice of nationalities depended on the latest fashion: In the stone age of soccer the British were in demand, then the Central Europeans or even Swiss and Argentinians. Since the war the sons of Polish émigrés were in vogue and as they were born here, there was no need to naturalise them before they could play for the national team. Their most famous product was Raymond Kopaszewski, better known as Kopa.

There also was a period of Dutch importation. But seldom were French players sold abroad, although Kopa, like Lucien Muller, went to Spain, while Boniface performed in Italy. With the return of Gress there is now only one Frenchman active elsewhere, namely Nestor Combin, who was actually born in Argentina of French parents, and still remains in Italy.

North Africans, until the independence of Morocco and Algeria, did not count as foreigners together with the coloured stars from the centre of the continent. That is why Rachid Mekloufi and Ben Barek were eligible for the national team. But this influx has now almost ceased and now the latest mass-invaders are the Yugoslavs.

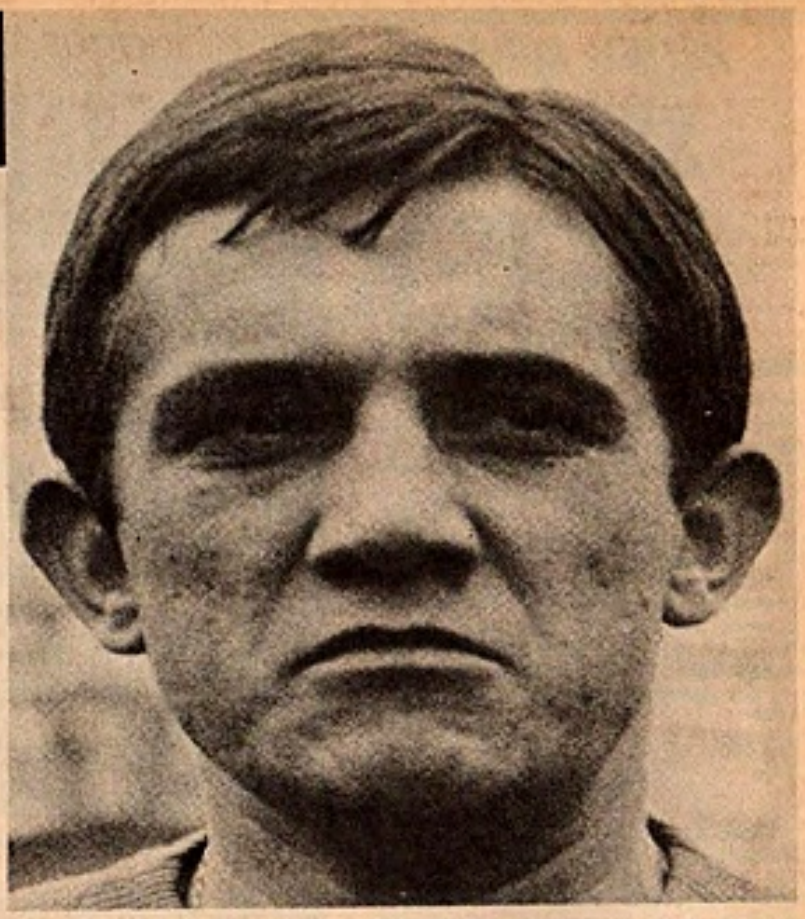
Mercenaries

At the moment there are 25 professionals from Yugoslavia on the pay-rolls of French clubs, including 19 in the First Division. Out of a total of 76 foreign players, from whom 47 perform in the First Division, the Yugoslavs represent a third. Next come Denmark and West Germany with five mercenaries each, followed by Brazil and Argentina four apiece, Portugal and Czechoslovakia three each.

These deliberations do not mean that I am in favour of importing foreign players. On the contrary: I believe that each club should—as is still customary in most European countries—draw its players from their own junior ranks and preferably their own cities or province. (Like Atletico Bilbao.) Unfortunately in the uncompromising world of commercial football these methods are no longer practised. The facts as presented above are merely pinpointing the fallacies of those who still understand very little of the game abroad.

PHILIP EVANS
from Milan, Italy

Inter win return derby



Roberto Boninsegna, out of luck when playing for Inter against AC Milan.

INTER won the return derby of the season by two goals to nil, and in so doing threw open the race for the Italian championship. They lie one point behind Milan, Napoli two points further back. But it has now unquestionably become a two-horse race. Napoli, among other commitments, have to play twice at San Siro. They will do well to take one of the points available to them from their games against the Milanese sides.

This season has been Corso's season, and the derby game was Corso's match. In every department of the game he outshone Rivera. He was more adventurous in attack, more controlled in his passing, more determined in his tackling. He scored the first Inter goal with a delicately curved shot from a free-kick. He was intimately involved in the scoring of the second goal, headed past Cudicini by Sandro Mazzola.

Outplayed

Milan can have no complaints. They were thoroughly outplayed, their manager thoroughly out-manœuvred. None admires Rocco more than I. But the fact remains that he made a dreadful mistake in leaving out of his side Combin, playing instead the out-of-form Villa. Combin was not even chosen as reserve—which meant that when in the second half, cast in the role of pursuer rather than pursued, Milan were unable to offer any degree of acceleration.

Rocco erred also in setting Biasiolo to mark Corso, the former a young player full of constructive ideas, never a destroyer. Rivera on the other hand was comprehensively patrolled by Bedin, played out of the game, unable to provide Prati with ammunition.

Milan complained ferociously about the first Inter goal. Corso, they claimed, took the free-kick before Lo Bello had whistled his approval. Certainly it seemed that way. Lo Bello, however, would have nothing to do with their complaints. Not surprisingly, he was roundly criticised by Cudicini for standing on the penalty spot while the kick was being taken—repeating his antic of the European Cup Final, in which he seemed to obstruct the view of the Feyenoord goalkeeper, Graafland. Set against this was the fact that Boninsegna came very close to scoring two further goals for Inter.

Management

On the day Milan were outrun, outthought, outplayed. Leave it at that. But Inter's victory has given some real pep to the fight for the title. The Inter players and management have lived in a world of euphoria these past few weeks. That will continue. The question is whether Milan can put the experience of the derby behind them, really begin to take both points from the weaker opposition they are due to face in the coming weeks, whether Rivera will recapture his best form. Too often this season he has been accused of laziness, disinterest. And Prati, for all his talents, is another who easily succumbs to disenchantment.

The preceding week Milan were held to a 1-1 draw at San Siro by a lively Juventus, who on the day of the derby demolished Napoli by four goals to one. Juve also won through to the semi-finals of the Fairs Cup, thanks to two extra-time goals from Anastasi in the second leg against Twente of Holland.

The cynics claim that Juventus's successful run began the day that Picchi was drafted into hospital for a medical check-up and rest. A more likely explanation lies in the fact that Anastasi is beginning to recapture his form, giving Juve the bite up front that they have lacked all season. It is perhaps too late for a tilt at the title for the Turin club. But they have yet to host Inter and the result may well go their way. Milan will hope so.

Riva is in training, has yet to play in a league game. Supporters of the Italian national side will hope that he doesn't return too soon and run the risk of a breakdown. Italy have two important games during the early summer, and badly need his services. Scopigno is being realistic about the affair. Cagliari's chances of winning the title long since vanished and Scopigno will not want Riva back unless he is absolutely recovered from his injury. Similarly with Cera.

Bologna has fallen away, Bulgarelli and Fabbri having, surprisingly, failed to see eye to eye as to the formation of the team and the method in which it should be employed. A shame that Bologna's challenge has withered. The team plays attractive football at most times; Fabbri has launched some promising youngsters, the club is one of the saner in Italian football terms.

Spain's national team manager talks to **World SOCCER**

KUBALA REPLIES

"ENTHUSIASM Grips Spain" ... my January article became the centre of much comment after newspapers translated and quoted opinions I had expressed. It brought home, I gather, points that fans had evidently overlooked about the international successes, points that they wanted clarifying.

Why the change of international squad policy? Whose hand on the wheel? Is youth to be forgotten? Are there too many veterans in the side? Is all well behind the scenes?

These comments of mine were evidently important enough for Ladislao Kubala, Spain's highly successful "Supremo" to specifically answer in a special interview.

Why did Kubala change his training plan? Has the "Supremo" a completely free hand?

Kubala says: "I am an employee of the Football Federation of Spain and in this capacity prepared before the season opened, a working plan. My superiors—and they are my superiors—thought differently about certain things and I accepted their point of view. We are now in complete accord. What we consider most important is the maintaining of the team spirit and comradeship that we have built up. But I repeat I am employed by the Federation ... and obey." (Which surely means that Ladislao Kubala has not the freedom of Sir Alfred Ramsey.)

Too old?

Are not some of the players a little old to be considered for Munich '74?

"Last season I began to build what I considered an ideal international side among which were key players like Gallego, Amancio and Luis. Gallego is now 26 and by Munich he'll be 30. Is a centre-half too old at 30? The position of Amancio and Luis is a little different ... it will mainly depend on their physical fitness, their freedom from injuries and whether they retain their form." (Both players will be over 35 ... and are forwards!)

"It is quite impossible ... and short-sighted ... to form a successful side based entirely on young players. I prefer youth, they naturally have greater aspirations, but older players with experience, calmness and knowledge are necessary for the development of the youngsters. Until the promising players reach a level of maturity the team will always be based on experience blended with youth ... and of course in relation to the quality and characteristics of the opposition."

Is not Spain aiming too high, attempting to succeed in two major trophies (the European Championship and World Cup) only five years after starting from scratch?

"I don't think so. We have two powerful adversaries in the European Championship ... Northern Ireland and Russia. We did well in our first round game against a team comprised almost entirely of English league players. But it is important that we do not rest on our laurels. If the squad plays as well as it can we have every chance of qualifying. More chances than Northern Ireland, the same as Russia.

"The World Cup is still a long way ahead ... we have tentative plans but the development will depend upon the group in which we are drawn. By then we should have a first-class, powerful and talented side, able to compete on equal terms with the world's best."

Have training methods been altered?

"No. Players have, and will, be called frequently for training, tactical talks and physical training, to the most convenient venue. For the match against France, apart from regular sessions, we concentrated for three days before the game ... against Italy five days. Before the return games with Northern Ireland, Cyprus and Russia we shall concentrate ten days before."

Since being appointed "Supremo", Kubala has been tremendously successful. What is his secret? Personality? Organisation? Knowledge? Or capacity to impart his own ability?

Optimism

"I have developed a plan of working which I adjust and revise from time to time ... but success depends on the players and their conforming to 11 basic requirements. Perfect physical fitness, optimism, determination, high technical qualities, first-class morale, illusion, the belief that it is an honour to play for Spain, the ability to play in, and as a team, concentration, comradeship and personal intuition. A team with all these qualities is a good and successful team and one that will achieve its objectives." (With ALL these qualities it is more than a good team, it's a *perfect team!*)

It has been said that Kubala is a little disillusioned and tired because of opposition from various quarters.

"That is not true. I am receiving the utmost help from both clubs and players. The managers are particularly co-operative, imparting willingly all that is helpful about their players. I have complete archives built up through watching players in matches and during training sessions and from up-to-date information supplied regularly by managers.

"And why should I be tired of a job I love? I never forget the help given me by Federation officials, directors and managers during my playing days and all they did to make it possible for me to play for Spain. My gratitude is eternal. But apart from that it is an honour to work for the benefit of Spanish football.

"Returning to Hungary? Nonsense. Never once has it entered my mind. I like Spain and there is no reason why I should ever leave. My family are here ... except my mother and she always visits me in Spain during Christmas time and during the summer. All I have is here ... and I'm staying for the rest of my life."

(Perhaps these answers will set the fans' minds at rest and this interview took place before Spain beat Italy in Cagliari.)

Gallego, Barcelona's centre-half, around whom Spain's European Championship and World Cup side is being built.

BLAXNIT BOOSTS IRISH

by COLIN McALPIN

THE four Irish League representatives in this season's Blaxnit-All Ireland Trophy, the sponsored competition which brings together the semi-finalists from the IFA and FAI Cups, are Coleraine, the holders, Linfield, Derry City and Distillery. And while soccer in Northern Ireland has been going through something of a traumatic period this term, the Blaxnit, the first major sponsored competition in the British Isles and one of the most successful, will almost certainly inject much needed life and cash into the clubs concerned.

Inaugurated three seasons ago by Ards chairman Harold Black and his Countydown Hosiery Company, the Blaxnit has been dominated by Coleraine. Dublin club Shamrock Rovers, then at their peak, won the first competition, beating Crusaders in a wonderful two-leg final but since then it has been the Bertie Peacock's men who have triumphed.

In my February article I touched on the subject of sponsorship both at national and club level and the success of the Blaxnit is an opportunity to give the subject another airing. While we should not look on sponsorship as the be-all-and-end-all of survival here, I do feel that outside finance properly applied and administered would go a long way to keeping poverty-stricken clubs afloat through this present trying period of low gates and rock-bottom interest on the part of the fans.

Coleraine, as I mentioned in my previous article, proved the effectiveness of sponsorship at local level when they persuaded businessmen in the town to provide the added incentive of a large cash bonus for the players if they won the league title for the first time in the club's history.

Many argued that such a bonus would tell against Coleraine—the supposed extra strain on the players who have more to lose through failure—but generally this argument didn't hold water. Coleraine, as I write, are certainly well in the running for the championship, keeping close to Linfield and Distillery at the top of the table.

Direct sponsorship

Surprisingly the only other form of direct sponsorship has come a cropper. It was the Guinness Goal Star, a prize of £100 to the leading goalscorer. The Irish League officials shot it down immediately, pointing out the dangers of an amateur winning the money and the suggestion of likely winners hogging the scoring opportunities.

I must say I had my reservations about the basic concept of the Goal Star award. Not so much for the reasons given by the legislators—their objections can be dismissed instantly (indeed Guinness, foreseeing the possibility of an amateur winning the award, agreed to make alternative arrangements)—but because I dislike the unfairness of rewarding one man for what is generally a two- or three-man effort and because £100 from a company like Guinness, who certainly got their money's worth in terms of publicity, is paltry indeed.

How much better it would have been had Guinness, or some other company, sat down to work out a proper competition based on the scoring of goals but embracing the entire team. Why reward the man who pops the ball home when it's often the others who do the really effective work? And why ignore the work of defenders who, by their very nature, don't get the opportunities of scoring?

We all welcomed the additional sponsorship—but nobody could have welcomed the ill-conceived planning behind the Goal Star.

To the Blaxnit itself. The four sides representing the North of Ireland are attractive, constructive sides and they ought to do well against their southern opponents. While soccer south of the border is experiencing something of a boom—Derry City, for example, are struggling on gates you could count on one hand while near neighbours Finn Harbs just over the border in Donegal are attracting fans in their thousands—I still feel our standards are slightly higher.

It's not the fault of the northern teams that outside influences—riots, gunfire, bombings, etc.—have combined to keep attendances below survival level.

The four clubs involved are certainly the most outstanding. Distillery, managed so brilliantly by Jimmy McLinden, are a side of class and skill, of brave forward play and stout defensive work. I'll admit openly they are a side I love to watch, they restore my faith in the game. They play soccer like it should be played—they are, in short, a joy to watch.

They are a young side—indeed men like goalkeeper Roy McDonald, inside-forward Martin O'Neill and half-back Martin Donnelly must surely be whisked away to the bright lights of cross-channel soccer soon—whose talent has taken them thus far in the Irish Cup and the league.

They deserve to win at least one trophy this season, if sheer enthusiasm and ability are to mean anything.

Linfield, Irish Cup holders, are a side built very much on the current mould of system-manned football. Manager Billy Bingham has moulded together a hard-running, hard-working team which succeeds through all-out pressure. Once the Linfield forward line starts moving it's like being confronted by a runaway steamroller.

Derry City, semi-finalists in the Texaco, are a talented side who don't always realise their true potential. Manager Jimmy Hill has players like Danny Hale, consistent goalscorer, Jim Smith, tipped as a member of the British Olympic side, and George O'Halloram, another prolific scorer, yet their league position belies their quality.

And Coleraine, this most frustratingly inconsistent Coleraine. Bertie Peacock dearly wants to lift the domestic title and with players like leading scorer Dickson (at the start of March he had collected 32 goals), Tony O'Doherty and Ivan Murray, both in the reckoning for future caps, he ought to have little trouble.

But Coleraine have a habit, a disconcerting habit, of chucking away valuable points when least expected. They don't lack ability but often they do seem to lack self-confidence.

Fortune-teller predicts result

THE result of the Everton-Panathinaikos European Cup-tie was of particular interest to Constantine Tsirimonis, a Greek fortune-teller. Tsirimonis, showing perhaps more courage than extra-sensory perception, forecast a win for the Greek side.

He claims to have predicted the assassination of both John F. Kennedy and Robert Kennedy, as well as the death of President Nasser, by a system of numerology.

Tsirimonis numbers the letters of the alphabet from 1 to 24. To calculate the result of the tie he used the names of Jesus Christ, Alexander the Great, Henry Ford, Dimitrios Domazos (Panathinaikos' centre-forward) and Everton. The letters added up to a total of 198, which by Tsirimonis's reckoning, spelled Everton's downfall. To think I always believed soccer was played with a ball. . . .

Algeria dropped six players for failing to attend a training session only four days before their match against Mali. The six included Lalmas, one of the team's key players, and goalkeeper Abrouk.

Tragedy in Brazil

THE Ibrox disaster showed that even in Britain large crowds can be difficult to control. Yet only in South America, remembering the appalling casualties at Peru's national stadium only a few years ago, does panic seem to spread like a raging fire. This time Brazil has fallen victim of the growing toll of casualties among spectators (writes ROGER MACDONALD).

The Brazilian president, Emilio G. Medici, was among the crowd at the match between Vittoria and Gremio in Salvador, a friendly to celebrate the opening of Salvador's 120,000-capacity stadium. For an hour all went well, with the Porto Alegre club Gremio—Medici's favourite team—leading the local Vittoria side by one goal to nil.

Pylons exploded

But in the 65th minute the lights on two of the floodlight pylons exploded, shattering glass and metal over the spectators below. The remaining lights fused, and in the darkness that descended, a fight broke out, accelerating the wild stampede over the moat or towards the exits.

In the panic four spectators died, two of them after rolling down the terraces from top to bottom. Taxes and buses were used to take the injured to Salvador's 17 hospitals. So many people were hurt, 2,086 in all, that those with less serious injuries had to be sent home. Medical students volunteered to assist the overworked doctors after an appeal for help on the local radio station.

President Medici postponed his return to the capital, Brazilia, instead visiting the injured in hospital.

Provoked

Another football fatality occurred in the small town of Itarana in the state of Espirito Santo. Ladislau Pereira, manager of Ferrovaria, warned his players not to be provoked by the local Itarana team, who were not noted for their restraint.

But during the match one of the home players struck the referee, and Pereira leapt up from the touchline to go to his defence. He had walked only a few strides when some spectators scrambled over the fence surrounding the pitch and grabbed Pereira, claiming he was about to manhandle their player. They began clubbing him over the head with sticks, and other spectators joined in with stones from the terraces. Before police could intervene, Pereira lay motionless on the ground—beaten to death.

The scene at the new football stadium in Salvador, Brazil, after a panic among the spectators had caused several casualties.

'TED' ROBLEDO MURDERED...

FROM the murder of a coach to the murder of a former professional footballer in Britain, Eduardo Oliver Robledo, who played for Newcastle United in the 1952 FA Cup Final. Eduardo, or "Ted", was the younger of two Robledo brothers to appear in this match—George, the elder, scoring the winning goal against Arsenal with a header a few minutes from time.

The Robledos were born of a Chilean father and an English mother of Yorkshire extraction, and they left Chile for Britain when Ted was only four. They made a name for themselves with Barnsley by 1950, and George was good enough to return to Chile for a few weeks to play—against England, by chance—in the World Cup.

Prominent part

When the next season began, both brothers had been transferred to Newcastle, where they played a prominent part in their Cup run. But a year later George and Ted decided to go back to Chile and join Colo Colo of Santiago. George ended his career with the club, but Ted returned to England for a while and signed for Notts County.

What happened to Ted Robledo after that remains obscure, but at the time of his murder he was working on an oil rig, "Discoverer Four", in the Persian Gulf. According to the charges, the captain of the oil tanker "Assahn", one Heinz Bassinich, struck Robledo on the head with an iron bar during a quarrel and knocked him into the sea.

A search was started over a wide area, but Robledo's body was never found. Bassinich was arrested by police from the adjacent Gulf state of Dubai, and was still in prison awaiting trial when I last had news of him.

FOOTBALL'S TELE

The cause

SPAIN'S RUSH

by NORMA

TELEVISION covered the 1966 World Cup with such thrilling interest and dignity that it brought many new followers to football in all parts of the world. In 1970, evidently because of an apparent change of policy and the carping critical commentators, domestic coverage became controversial.

Had this new trend stopped at international level all would have been well. But it didn't. The sensational, critical, we-know-it-all attitude spread to domestic football, particularly attacks on referees. "It's a goal" ... "It's not a goal" ... and emphasis on fouls, mistakes and incidents.

Today the image of football (already a little rocky in some countries) is in danger of being further damaged, seriously this time, by television. It's reached a point where a referee, players, crowds and clubs are being put on trial by television.

The trend is ominous ... and should be stopped.

Fortunately English referees are learning to live with TV and take it in their stride. They defy crowd's protests boldly and bravely on the grounds, and are beginning to take the view that television's millions can moan and argue all they like, it doesn't matter a damn.

Interview

Referee Jack Taylor, in a recent *News of the World* interview, gave the perfect reply. "When I began refereeing," he said, "50,000 used to leave the ground saying 'the ref's mad'. Now thanks to TV there might be 30,000,000 saying the same thing. So what? Should I be thinking differently about my refereeing decisions because of this? I'd be a pretty awful referee if I did."

Certain press and television commentators delight in whipping up controversies. That's their right, although they frequently abuse it ... and of course it sells papers and attracts viewers. But as long as FIFA, UEFA, the Football Association and the Football League, refuse to be swayed by the product of cameramen and trick photography, or the work of editors, scriptwriters and commentators (many of whom don't know whether the ball is round or oval) football will resist television's tendency (deliberate or otherwise) to dominate the game.

The recent statement by Vernon Stokes, chairman of the FA Disciplinary Committee, said television and photographic evidence may be barred in the future, is most satisfying. Their wise, practical point of view is two-fold. All players haven't the same opportunity of presenting television evidence (after all they don't televise Bradford v. Newport County) ... and the undeniable, obvious fact that television testament in football is utterly unreliable.

It's the easiest thing in the world to present a misleading film or fake a penalty, offside or incident photograph. As everyone knows it's simply a question of camera angles. If the cameraman is in exactly the right place you have your evidence. If he's a couple of yards off line it becomes so useless that even Perry Mason couldn't twist it into reliable testimony. Even punch-ups look different from the camera's position. They say a camera never lies. Gee, my camera is the biggest liar in the world ... if I want it to be.

As for reliability! I was at the Chelsea-Newcastle match at Stamford Bridge with a distinguished League club vice-president, when I was in England. It was the most boring game I'd ever seen. (Perhaps that was because games here in Spain and Italy are so exciting?) That evening "The Match of the Day" version of the Chelsea game overshadowed all the great classic matches of the century,

Can the camera lie? This picture would seem to indicate England's Brian Labone fouling Colin Stein of Scotland. But the referee waved "play-on".

VISION PROBLEM and effect TO JUDGEMENT

N CUTLER

so clever was the editor's final product. It certainly wasn't the match I saw.

And let me reveal ... some press commentators write their reports of foreign matches from television. You can always tell their goalscorers, and expulsions are never correct.

The current television-referee problem, particularly the emphasis on mistakes, is not really a problem. It can be answered, or looked upon cynically, by observing the rules of the game: "the referee is the sole judge and his decision is final". FIFA officially clarified the situation recently by reiterating the inadmissibility of television, film and photographic evidence.

Once television stops trying to run football, and press writers learn what the game is all about and stop turning human errors and weaknesses into dramatic sensations, then football at all levels will benefit and prosper.

The effect

Trial by television ... so described in England ... is insidious sensationalism by the so-called enlightened who are really unenlightened. But although dangerous, it's absolutely nothing ... compared with the torture suffered by referees and players in Spain. They are not only tried by television but SENTENCED as well.

Take the famous "Emilio Guruceta Case". He was suspended because his refereeing was alleged "to have been caused a problem of public disorder". Yet the evidence considered by various Federation committees included television cuts, stacks of still photographs, and cine film, all of which sought to prove that he made a mistake in awarding a penalty to Real Madrid.

Each Monday all the goals, incidents and alleged refereeing mistakes of the previous day's first division matches are shown on Spanish TV programme "Teledeportes". Regularly incidents are heatedly debated by football personalities and past and present referees. Even the glut of press statements made after the games by managers and players are dragged in. The uproar is overwhelming. Two days later the Disciplinary Committee meets and passes sentence.

The recent Atletico Bilbao-Las Palmas incident is another example ... although in this case it had a different ending.

Two minutes after the interval, following a prolonged mêlée in the Las Palmas area, Argoitia, Bilbao's outside-left, scored from the corner of the penalty box. Two Las Palmas defenders mildly protested for offside, but referee Antonio Camarcho, without hesitation, awarded a goal and the game ended in a 1-0 Bilbao victory.

After the match no one questioned the validity of the goal. Both the Las Palmas director-in-charge and manager Hector Rial, took defeat philosophically, making no protests whatsoever.

The next evening's television carried the camera's version. It showed the Bilbao winger making a shot at goal and the momentum of his run taking him off the field of play. He remained among the photographers to avoid being offside. But 25 seconds later, while play was still in the area, Argoitia returned to a point just inside the 18-yard line. Almost immediately the ball, from a series of rebounds, ran to his feet ... he banged it into the net.

Whipped up

Within 24 hours, based on television pictures alone, the whole thing had been whipped up into the crime of the century. The press and television abused the referee left, right and centre for allowing the goal and the Football Federation received an official protest from the Las Palmas club. The whole hullaballoo was based on television pictures and the half-heated comments of two Las Palmas players who said they were "surprised when they realised Argoitia had scored".

On this occasion the Disciplinary Committee shrewdly passed the case to the National Committee of Referees ... who wisely forgot the whole thing.

One famous president attacked television recently for favouritism, saying: "When matches of certain clubs are televised fouls and incidents are cleverly cut. The doubtful goals and mistakes are never shown ... only the sections that enhance these clubs."

All countries ... take warning. Keep television in its place as a medium of entertainment, not dictation.

One of the main causes of sensation and controversy in Spain is the system adopted by the Disciplinary Committee.

A player is sent off on Sunday ... three days later (Wednesday) the Committee meets and the player is automatically suspended from one to six matches, depending on the offence. Booked players are fined and warned at the same meeting. The Committee's verdict is based on the referee and club report written immediately after the match. The player is very, very rarely, allowed a personal hearing.

At the same meeting the referee is examined. Clubs make reports on referee's performances, its effect on the game, players and crowds, give a list of his "errors" and their own opinion. On this information the referee is warned, fined or suspended ... in spite of the clarity of Article 5. More insidious, if a club is disappointed with a referee, through a reverse decision, penalty (or not), expulsion or booking, they can officially reject him, which means they ban him from refereeing a future game in which they are involved. All these decisions are made public in an official statement issued after the meeting.

Respect

I have every respect for Spain's Disciplinary Committee. They are honest men, have football at heart and try to do their job. But these "Six Just Men" are under such tremendous pressure it is impossible not to be swayed, in some way, by the avalanche of press comment and trial by television that follows the sending off of a famous player, referee's "mistakes" or crowd protests.

The trouble is The Rush to Judgement ... the incredibly short time that separates the incident ... the taking down of "evidence" (at the most two hours later) ... and the trial (three days later). There is no time for passions to cool ... no time for referees to give a considered report ... no time for explanation and investigation ... no time for television and press blasts to die down. There's just no time for justice to be done ... either to the player, referee ... or the reputation of the Disciplinary Committee.

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Alun Evans (left) with his Liverpool skipper Tommy Smith.

EVANS . . . THE HERO

ALUN EVANS, back in the Liverpool side after a four-months' absence through injury, inspired Liverpool to a splendid 3-0 victory over Bayern Munich in their first leg, Fairs Cup quarter-final tie.

Evans scored all three goals in opportunist fashion and came close on several other occasions. Manager Bill Shankly prophesied that Evans's return to the team would solve many of their goalscoring problems ... and Evans emphatically proved the wisdom of his words.

But Evans was not the only hero. The whole team gave a superlative display, possibly their best in European competition. Not even the cool elegance of Franz Beckenbauer in the Munich defence could hold back a non-stop Liverpool attack.

Young Brian Hall covered every inch of the Anfield pitch; scything through the Bayern defence and coming eagerly back to win possession when the need arose. Steve Heighway tied the German defence in knots and ace-goalscorer Gerd Müller was rarely seen.

In a week when English clubs fared none too well in Europe —Chelsea and Manchester City lost, Everton drew and Leeds United and Arsenal could only win 2-1 against Vitor a Setubal and FC Cologne respectively—Liverpool stood head and shoulders above the rest.

ALLEN WADE (FA Director of Coaching) talks to

World SOCCER

England dominates the game in Europe

In an interview with ERIC BATTY

DURING the last five or six years there has been a tremendous improvement in English football and my pre-1966 World Cup forecast—that English football would dominate the game in Europe within three years — has clearly been confirmed.

This assessment was based on what I had seen earlier at Lilleshall, where large numbers of very good youngsters assembled every year to prepare for the UEFA Youth Championship. And in addition upon the fact that an ever increasing group of talented young players were gaining a great deal of valuable experience in Europe through the growing success of our leading club sides.

Since 1962 we have seen a better quality player appearing in the professional game, stemming in part from the lifting of the maximum wage. Players with higher standards of intelligence became professionals and inevitably they learned faster than their predecessors. Seeing all this I was convinced that if the coaching was good then the future was secure and so it has turned out.

With coaching accepted in the professional game for some years now, coaches with football ideas came to the fore, and by good coaching these ideas were exposed in match play. Other coaches noted these new ideas and inevitably they spread. This combined with the rising standards of individual players both in terms of ability and intelligence and the result was inevitable.

Standards

Our Continental neighbours were aware of these developments—and were both impressed and afraid. Club sides like Everton, Manchester City and Chelsea as well as the English national XI have underlined this resurgence but the new high standards are widespread in England and not at all limited to an élite few clubs. At the base of the game in England are hundreds of first-class players and the West Germans, who were the quickest to follow our lead, are perhaps in closest pursuit of us. The Russians also seem interested though in South America only Argentina (as seen in 1966) are following our lead.

Of all the South American countries the Argentine has both the potential and the know-how to come to terms with European developments. Self-discipline and true professionalism will see the Argentine emerge as a considerable football power. Brazil is a law unto itself.

With the rest of the world in pursuit, English football remains in top place but the greatest danger to our position is continued success for this so often breeds complacency. The Hungarians provide a typical example of this, for since the middle 1950s their game has slipped downhill. Brazil, too, suffered from the same danger—World Cup winners in 1958 and 1962 they became complacent and received a most unpleasant shock when they flopped in 1966.

This is the critical point. England's successes have been hard earned and we must never cease to be critical, constantly keeping the game, our ideas and our coaching methods under review. If we become complacent we, too, could pay the penalty.

Approach

In Eastern Europe generally the game is suffering from a basic misconception that football is a sport like any other and the approach to soccer coaching there is related to that of all games and sports. Football is NOT just a sport like all or any others and if I hope for the sake of England's continued supremacy that the East Europeans will not see the error they have made, it is clear they will not lag behind too long.

South American players can look great in training, as indeed do many of their counterparts in Eastern Europe. But looking good in training on Wednesday is one thing, for I have noted repeatedly that the apparently *great* player can look poor on Saturday in a match when he has 11 opponents against him.

Individual

In training it is impossible to reproduce match-like conditions and almost the same can be said of friendly matches or training games. This is all of limited value and it is totally wrong to assume that the more an individual plays the better he will become. No training, practice or friendly game can ever reproduce match conditions in which real opposition plays the vital role and it is in this realm that English football has made its big contribution to the game.

The problem for coaches is to *communicate* to their players and this can best be done in practical form—in practice play. But it is possible for a player to take part in as many as 90 games a year yet improve very little or not at all.

It was the answer to this problem that England gave the world, the theory or idea of "opposed" practice. The inevitable outcome of this is a new concept: more training and less games—and of course the training must be opposed by live opposition. Real opposition!

The aim in coaching now is 100% understanding and this involves constant repetition. In matches the opposition will not let you repeat things so this repetition which leads to understanding, must be done in training and most imperative—against real, live opposition.

Most people will have seen for themselves in matches the results of what I refer to as the resurgence of English football. Two examples seem to me to be typical from what I saw in 1970.

One was a Third Division game at Southend where Northampton played a 2-2 draw at the end of last season. Some fans of the home side were clearly critical but to me, neutral and dispassionate, it was a very good game. By First Division standards, of course, it was quite naive but played as it was on a hard ground, in bad conditions at the end of the season it was exciting. It also provided proof that the growth in the stature of the game here goes very deep indeed and is not merely limited to the top clubs.

Outplayed

The second match that stands out in my mind was the 1970 FA Cup Final, Chelsea v. Leeds United. Man for man Chelsea were not inferior to Leeds, but they were outplayed individually and collectively. Other, lesser teams, might well have panicked under the pressure and begun to kick the ball about with long passes but Chelsea kept at it and gradually came out very well. They stood firm, kept their heads and played the ball away to get back into the game with real football. If I had been the manager of Chelsea this would have given me tremendous satisfaction as I am sure it did for Dave Sexton.

Now the Continentals must be worried. They cannot fail to have noticed the explosion and they must be wondering whether there is any way to contain it and is there no limit to how much further our game can develop. I am quite sure they are both aware of what has gone on . . . and worried.

My principal concern is that innovation is on the wane and that having explored the permutations of mid-field and back-field strength in numbers our clubs are failing to realise that, in terms of development, the game can only go one way—forward!

Scientific in the

TWO of WORLD SOCCER's long-standing contributors, Eric Batty and Roger McDonald, went to Mexico to see the World Cup and present what they saw from a new angle. The result is a book called "Scientific Soccer in the Seventies"—not a book about Mexico but rather an attempt to explain in words and illustrations just how and why the World Cup was won and lost. More than that they probed deeper, to pinpoint the good moves, the near-misses as well as the goals and round it all off with interviews with the managers of the eight quarter-finalists and a foreword by Mr. Ron Greenwood.

This is not so much a review of the book but an introduction and one cannot do better in this respect than to quote from the book with examples in words and illustrations.

BRAZIL

1. The free-kick which brought Rivelino an extraordinary goal against Czechoslovakia (Diagram 1):

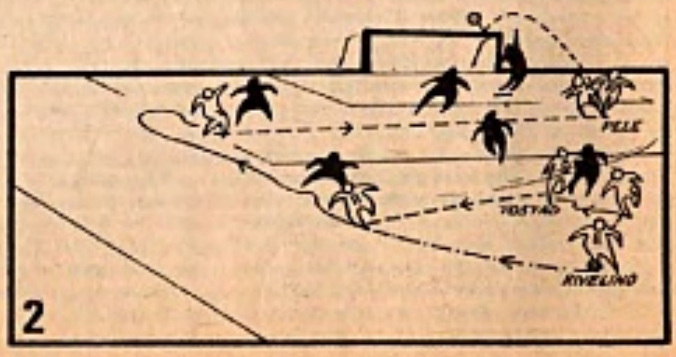
The Czechs put up the usual defensive wall to protect one side of the goal from a direct shot, while goalkeeper Viktor positioned himself on the other side. Pelé, by reputation a superbly gifted player, was the man who took everyone's attention—not least because it was he who retrieved the ball, placed it on the correct spot and stood back, as if reflecting on what kind of shot or pass he would use. Then suddenly, two other players moved and both made cunning use of the area *hidden* from Viktor by *his own defenders standing in the wall.*

Jairzinho was the decoy: from this area totally obstructed to Viktor, Jairzinho moved behind the wall and suddenly stepped into Viktor's range of vision by placing himself as an extra man on the end of the Czech wall. Then, after attracting Viktor's attention, he moved off again, disappearing from Viktor's sight and almost certainly distracting the goalkeeper.

In the same moment, also from "behind the wall", Rivelino made his run-up to the dead ball at an oblique angle. One moment Viktor was under the impression that Pelé would take the free-kick, the next he was distracted by the appearance of Jairzinho, and finally, caught napping by Rivelino's hard, accurate, left-foot shot. Viktor's phenomenal reflexes enabled him to get his right hand to the ball, but he could not keep it out of the net.

2. A near-miss by Pelé in the match with Peru (Diagram 2):

Rivelino carried the ball forward from midfield and Tostao set off again on another run from the middle, moving left and further away from the penalty area than usual. Rivelino played the ball up to feet, for Tostao to turn, then immediately took up his secondary position on the left wing. Meanwhile Tostao made ground, with his opponent Jose Fernandez back-pedalling, then played a square pass left to Rivelino. Campos attempted an interception, but Rivelino accelerated, side-



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soccer seventies

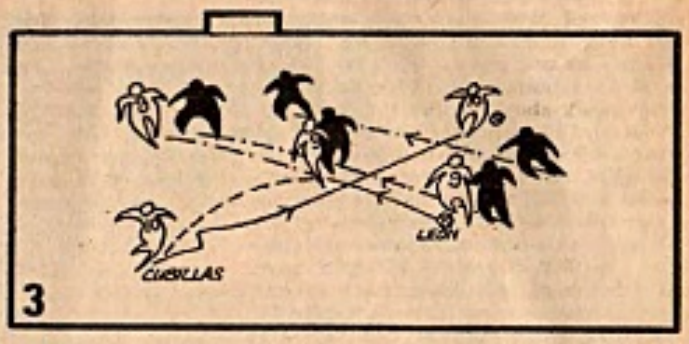
stepped the Peruvian and went on down the left. With Mifflin racing back from midfield and successfully cutting off Rivelino's direct path to goal, the Brazilian feinted to go outside, then brought the ball back inside, to lay the ball across to Pelé, almost square.

As the ball came towards Pelé he was almost half a yard too far forward, but taking the weight of his body on to his right leg, Pelé took a step back with his left. Then he straightened his body by switching his weight to the left foot, leaving himself free to lift his right foot, get under the ball and scoop it up. A lesser player may be able to do this with a shovel, but only Pelé could get the ball up from about eight yards and drop it on to the roof of the net. This, too, was worth a goal.

PERU

1. A midfield gem of sweet simplicity and ability involving Cubillas and Leon (Diagram 3):

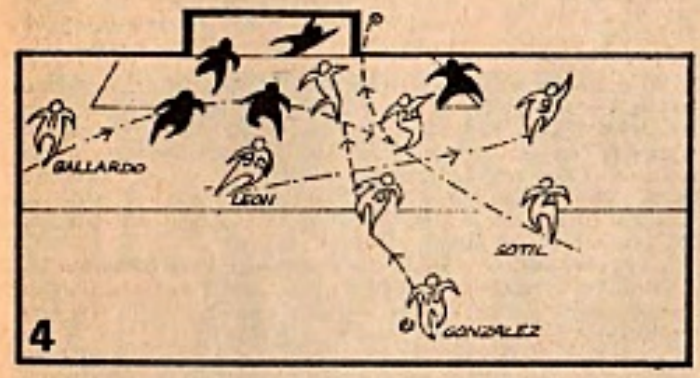
Peru could produce just as good a move from fluid position. One of them, executed in this match (against Bulgaria) in midfield, was seen to great effect in later matches inside the penalty area. Leon in possession moved left before playing the ball off to Cubillas. Having made his pass, Leon continued on



his original course, running in front of Cubillas and taking two defenders with him. Cubillas shaped up to pass to Leon then took off at speed, moving to his right.

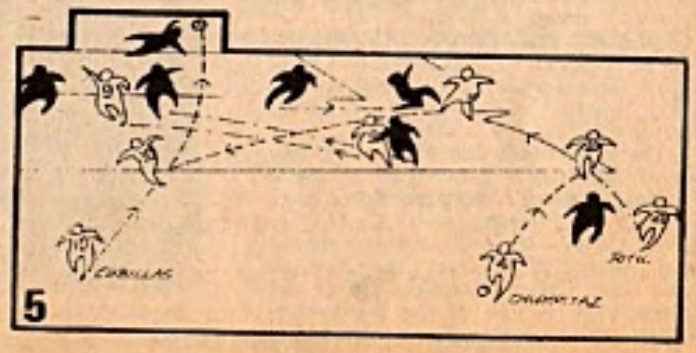
2. A four-man example (including Leon) of the Peruvians' superb attacking play (Diagram 4):

Another move involved three Peruvians (directly) and was more complicated, though when analysed in three separate phases it was simple in execution. Stringing these moves together, the Peruvians destroyed the Bulgarian defence. As illustrated, Javier Gonzalez had possession some ten yards outside the Bulgarian penalty area. Leon moved right at speed, while simultaneously Gallardo came in quickly from the left. Gonzalez played his first ball forward, Gallardo laid it off instantly to Sotil, who sprinted forward for a fierce shot wide of Simeonov's left-hand post.



3. The same cross-running by centre-forward Leon, opening the way to a shooting position for Cubillas (Diagram 5):

Peru's third goal (against Morocco) evolved from Sotil's superb ball control, unselfish running by Leon and an unstoppable shot from Cubillas. Sotil out on the right, received a pass from Chumpitaz inside the back that sent him away on a swerving run towards the near post. Idriss had no choice but to move across (from the middle) and challenge. With a feint to go outside, Sotil sent him in the wrong direction. And as Sotil looked up, Leon made his run from the edge of the penalty area, claiming the defenders' full attention. As Cubillas, following some ten yards behind, came in unmarked and unexpected, Sotil produced a perfect pass. Cubillas met it with all his strength—and it was a goal from the moment the ball left his foot.



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MORRIS SAYS SOCCER WILL OVERTAKE RUGBY

PETER JACKSON from Wales

TREVOR MORRIS, newly-installed as secretary of the Welsh FA, predicts that soccer will overtake rugby as THE game of Wales. The facts and figures suggest that the take-over is only a matter of time.

Clearly Welsh football hasn't had it so good for a long time. And if Cardiff City make it to the First Division, the soccer take-over will happen all the sooner.

The reasons behind Morris's optimism are not difficult to find. The image of Welsh football, severely tarnished by a depressing sequence of failures at various levels of international competition, is winning back much of its self-respect.

At the end of last season Wales earned a share in the British Championship for the first time since 1960. Admittedly they scored only two goals from their three matches—that by Ronnie Rees against Northern Ireland and by Nick Krzywicki against England—but to complete the series without defeat is achievement, indeed.

What has to be considered is the fact that for Wales the domestic championship invariably deteriorates into a private duel with Northern Ireland for the right to avoid the embarrassed possession of the wooden spoon.

Perhaps it was too much to hope that the Under-23 version of Welsh football could emulate their seniors. They did just that, drawing with England at Wrexham and beating Scotland at Swansea.

Deserved

"When you remember that five years ago we lost 8-0 to England and 6-0 to Scotland you get some idea of how things have changed," said Wales team manager Dave Bowen. "We had our chances to have beaten England and the win against Scotland was no more than we deserved."

Against England, the Welsh used loads of old-fashioned graft and a not inconsiderable amount of their traditional fire. The dragon, one could argue, sleeps no more.

The defeat of Scotland marked the first Welsh win at Under-23 level for more than seven years—a win made possible by a second-half goal from Peter Price who had stepped out of Peterborough's reserves straight into the Under-23 arena.

Against Scotland, Wales were without two of their full internationals—Liverpool's John Toshack and Leeds' reserve Terry Yorath who swept so superbly against England.

"The team did so well in both matches that I felt had a game been arranged against Northern Ireland we would have won it," said Bowen.

The sudden Under-23 success offered new names. Goalkeeper Dai Davies, from the Carmarthenshire village of Glanamman, is one. It was his performance against England which tempted Everton's Harry Catterick to invest £15,000 in him.

Leighton Phillips is another player of whom much will be heard. He finally clinched automatic selection for Cardiff in mid-season and plays well in midfield and in the back four.

Then there's Phil Roberts, a stylish full-back scooped by Bristol Rovers from junior football in Cardiff and a player who has drawn a variety of First Division clubs to Eastville.

The Welsh revival goes right down to the professional youth side who last month hoped to make certain of clinching a place in the finals of the European Youth tournament, booked for Czechoslovakia at the end of the season.

New starlets such as Nigel Rees, the 17-year-old Cardiff left-winger, and Burnley winger Leighton James give Wales a bright promise for the future.

And Cardiff have seven Welsh players in their side which, for the first time in history, has reached the semi-finals of the FA Youth Cup. They got there with wins against Swansea, Southampton, Plymouth and Rotherham.

Gerry Hitchens, England's World Cup centre-forward in Chile nine years ago, is back in Wales—the country where he first sprang to notice with Cardiff City. Hitchens, whose wife comes from Pontypridd, has signed for Southern League club Merthyr.

A three-horse race for the Welsh League Championship. Haverfordwest, managed by Ivor Allchurch, finished runners-up last season but could take the title from Cardiff City. The other contenders are the 1969 champions Bridgend.

England's Martin Peters clears from Geoff Hurst and Mike England (Wales) during last season's international clash.

Denmark bows to professionalism

IT looks as though Denmark, for a long time the last bastion of the genuine amateur game in Europe, may at last bow to the inevitable and recognise professionalism—a move that could result in a startling rise in her international status.

At the annual general meeting of the Danish FA, delegates voted 74 to 33 with three abstentions, the necessary two-thirds majority, to permit gift vouchers to be given to leading players. Under the new scheme players can earn up to £166 a year, hardly a fortune, but surely the first step towards much bigger payments.

More significant, perhaps, is the decision to allow Denmark's Austrian-born team manager, Rudi Strittich, to call up professional players from abroad. Up to five full-time professionals may now be used in any "important" match, presumably at Strittich's discretion. He has plenty to choose from, for at present 56 Danes are under contract to foreign clubs—among them Lief Nielsen (Morton), Johnny Hansen (Bayern Munich), Ulrik Le Fevre (Borussia Monchengladbach), Ole Bjoernemose (Werder Bremen), Tom Soendergaard (Metz), Preben Arentoft (Newcastle United), Allan Michaelsen (Nantes), Bent Schmidt Hansen and Henning Muk Jensen (both with Eindhoven).

Three defeats

It is now too late, of course, for Denmark to qualify for the quarter-finals of the European Championship, following three defeats by Scotland, Portugal and Belgium.

Another, perhaps less momentous, decision by the Danish FA involved their official recognition of women's soccer. The game has been flourishing in Denmark for many years, and a Danish club side, you may remember, represented them in the first women's world championship last year and beat Italy in the final.

The tournament was so successful that it will be held again next August—this time in Mexico. The Mexican women's team, which should be a sight worth seeing, qualify as hosts, and elimination rounds have already started to decide on the European finalists.

Eleven European countries have entered — Austria, Belgium, Denmark, England, West Germany, Czechoslovakia, Holland, Italy, France, Sweden and Switzerland. The final will be held in the Aztec Stadium on August 29, and admission for women will be free.

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Focus on Juventus by JACK ROLLIN

Fairs Cup is within reach

JUVENTUS must be cursing their inglorious opening to the season which left them looking prospective candidates for a drop into Serie "B". For since then they have managed a climb which has taken them into the fringe area of championship challenging. Had it not been for this poor beginning the Zebras might have added another title to their last gained in 1967.

But crying aside, Juventus can look back on a successful run in the Fairs Cup which saw them enjoy a free scoring romp in the first round against US Rumelange (Luxembourg) and then produce their best performance of the season in winning both legs of their match with Barcelona, then leading the Spanish First Division table.

Then came a clinical disposal of the Hungarian outfit Pecsi Dozsa who were beaten at home 1-0 and away 2-0. But in the quarter-finals, Juventus had a much more difficult fight against the Dutch club FC Twente.

Though they took a 2-0 lead to Holland with them this was swallowed up by the end of full time and only a couple of life-saving goals from Pietro Anastasi in the extra period saw them through.

Anastasi, as the world's most expensive signing, has had some difficult years trying to live down the £400,000 price tag lopped on him at the tender age of 20 after only season in the First Division with Varese!

Last term Anastasi was third highest scorer in Italy with 15 goals and missed a trip to Mexico when he had to withdraw on the eve of departure through illness.

Not everything has gone for him this term, however. He has not had much in the way of luck and has often been out of touch in a way which usually comes from suffering from ill-fortune. But he is still one of the best centre-forwards in Italy, agile and a ready opportunist inside the penalty area with much inborn ability.

Helmut Haller, a new lease of life with Juventus.

Recognised

Under the tutelage of manager Armando Picchi, the old sweeper of Inter, one would expect the Juventus defence to be up to scratch, too. In fact in eight Fairs Cup games they have conceded only four goals.

Much of this has been due to the goalkeeping of Roberto Tancredi who, despite being 27, has only played in the First Division for two seasons. In fact he is one of the veterans of the side. Only two others of the recognised senior side are over 30.

Both Sandro Salvadore and Helmut Haller are 31. Salvadore has more than 300 First Division games behind him during his career which began with AC Milan. An ace of defensive duties he can sweep or stop as required. Salvadore has 36 full Italian caps.

German-born Haller has also had a good season in midfield. This is surprising particularly in view of his poor showing in Mexico last year in the opening World Cup match. At the start of the season it seemed that Juventus's problems might be in the midfield area where there were four candidates for three berths. In addition to Haller, there was Giuseppe Furino, Fabio Capello and Antonello Cuccureddu.

Furino (24) made his initial international appearance in the World Cup last year when he came on as substitute against Uruguay and has been tried at

Novellini of Juventus scores against FC Twente in a Fairs Cup quarter final match in Turin. Juventus won 2-0.

full-back. Picchi probably intended using Furino at full-back but if the defence looked shaky he would have moved him to midfield. Haller actually won his chance because of the sureness of the defence generally.

Both Capello and Cuccureddu have acquitted themselves with distinction. Capello at 24 came in the close season when Juventus signed eight new players and transferred nine. Formerly with Roma and earlier Spal, Capello had clocked over 100 First Division appearances since his début for Spal against Sampdoria in March 1964. Cuccureddu at 21 is only in his second season in the First Division and was previously with Brescia. Yet he has displayed the physical courage and determination so necessary for success in Italy.

New signing

Completing the defence has been right-back Luciano Spinosi, only 20, and another new signing this past year from Roma, known as a stopper there but now switched effectively to the right flank. Stopper centre-back duties are in the hands of Francesco Morini (26) in his second season with them and formerly with Sampdoria, too.

The other two strikers with Anastasi are Franco Causio and Roberto Bettega. Causio is only 22 and was with Juventus as a junior and had spells on loan to Reggina and Palermo before returning at the start of this term. On the left flank Bettega is establishing himself as something of a scorer, too.

He was brought in during the influx last summer and has an Anastasi-type background to his career. As Varese's centre-forward last term he hit 13 League goals in 30 Second Division matches and helped his club to win the championship. This was enough to get him recalled by Juventus! And at 20 he is a fine prospect.

On the reserve strength are Massimo Piloni, the second-string goalkeeper, a 22-year-old, full-backs Luigi Danova (19) and Gianluigi Roveta (23), plus stopper Giuseppe Zaniboni (22). In attack there is Giampiero Marchetti (22), Roberto Montersi (19) and Gianluigi Savoldi (21).

Completing the squad are Fausto Landini, a 19-year-old forward who is tall, awkward looking but a selfless type who can make openings for others with clever headwork and Adriano Novellini (22), who hit a hat-trick in the second leg match with US Rumelange—with Landini getting the fourth, incidentally.

Picchi's aim to build a good, young side is a laudable one but while Italian games are frequently played at chess-move pace, there can be much more frantic activity when it comes to changes at managerial level. Thus Picchi must hope that Juventus get to the final of the Fairs Cup for his best chance of achieving something in the current term.

Pietro Anastasi, a £400,000 purchase for Juventus.

Consistent

Juventus reached the final of the Fairs Cup in 1965 when they were beaten 1-0 by Ferencvaros (Hungary) in Turin. None of that side is still on the books.

Juventus have won four Italian First Division championships since 1957–58 and only once in that time—in the 1961–62 season—have they finished lower than fifth place; a consistent record in any league.

In 1957–58 they were awarded a golden star by the Italian FA for their tenth title.

The club has been noted for its goal-scoring forwards like John Charles and Gianpiero Boniperti, as well as inside-forwards like Luis Del Sol and Enrique Sivori. If Picchi can be allowed the time to develop what appears to be a promising crop of youngsters it could be that some of these names will be put down on the list of great stars of Juventus in the future.

But it may take at least one title or near-title achieved this season to ensure that this dream has a chance of becoming reality.

MAZZOLA HAS CHARACTER

Italy 1, Spain 2

THE first home defeat for the Italians since the May of 1961 when England travelled to Rome, won by three goals to two, and Gerry Hitchens served notice on Italian club defences that he might prove to be a tidy handful in the succeeding season and wearing Inter's colours. Ten years ago, the Italian national squad was groping its way out of a tunnel of despondency. The present defeat was much the more traumatising in consequence.

by PHILIP EVANS

The particular—and peculiar—circumstances of the defeat last month were fascinating for any non-Italian commentator of that country's footballing psyche. I well remember watching Cagliari play on the mainland a couple of seasons ago. "Non sono Italiani"—the words summed up the anger of the crowd whenever a decision went in favour of the Sardinian team, whenever one of the visitors committed a foul. The statement, of course, chose to ignore the fact that all the present first-team members of Cagliari come from the mainland, that only two major footballers playing in the *Serie A*—Rampanti of Torino, Cucureddu of Juventus—are of Sardinian extraction. Never mind. There is still this bitter animosity against the island teams on the part of mainland *tifosi* of other teams.

Well, at last, the islands have had their revenge. Throughout the game against Spain the Sardinian crowd at Cagliari cheered the Spanish, jeered the Italians. Look at the Italian team and you will quickly see why—Zoff (Napoli); Bet (Roma), Facchetti (Inter); Bertini (Inter), Rosato (Milan), Burgnich (Inter); Mazzola (Inter), Rivera (Milan), Boninsegna (Inter), De Sisti (Fiorentina), Prati (Milan). Not one Cagliari player. Cera and Riva were both out of action with injuries. But Albertosi and Domenghini were both dropped.

Fate certainly played its part. Both Domenghini and Albertosi have suffered recently from wretched loss of form. Gori—another local player who might have been considered—has had a quiet season. He has always been a faithful shield-bearer, but the knight in question, Riva, has been *hors de combat*.

Dilemma

It is typical, perhaps, of Valcareggi's temperament that he should have chosen the rocky, rather than the smooth, pathway through the dilemma. The alternatives were clear in the circumstances. For days there were rumours that Domenghini and Albertosi were due to be dropped. For days there were weighty articles in the Sardinian papers urging the crowd to express their disapproval of these moves. Valcareggi was given a clear alternative. Either he began the game with the two Cagliari players, only to substitute them after a decent interval of time had elapsed. Or he played the team he wanted to play, and ran the risk of heating the wrath of the crowd. He chose the latter.

I think he chose wisely. The chances are the crowd might have been more incensed at watching their two heroes taken off the field. It would have been a good excuse for a genuine riot of spontaneity. Either way the Italian players would have been made to feel that they were playing away from home. And we all know what can happen to the Italians when deprived of vociferous crowd support. They blow up.

In this particular game they never even managed to work up a head of steam. The strikers performed as though they had wandered off the set of a Visconti film. Rivera had a sluggish match, all delicate touch and little effort. Bertini, foreseeably, had a poor match. And the only real successes were precisely the two players who gave their most in Mexican conditions — Rosato and Mazzola.

Leave aside technical considerations, the more one sees of Mazzola the more impressive he becomes. He appears to thrive in adverse conditions. He was the player chosen to wear the shirt that normally belongs to Domenghini, he was the player for whom the crowd reserved the loudest of its wrath, he was the player who most impressed the impartial observers at the match. Rosato, similarly, has had his troubles this season. But he also rose to the occasion. Character—that's what it is all about for these two.

Good move

Valcareggi did make some changes for this game, but they were forced on him by circumstance. Unable to call upon Cera to play in the role of sweeper, he handed the task to Burgnich, who has switched to that position in the Inter formation. The right-back berth was filled by a new cap, Bet of Roma. A good move this, and I hope he gives Spinosi a try there in the near future. But Bertini was chosen again in the role of *laterale*. Bertini, who has had a poor season, whose skills and defects are already well known to Valcareggi. I suspect that I'm not the only one who would like to see Di Sisti moved back into that position, leaving room further upfield for Corso—in tremendous form at the moment, or Benetti.

When all is said and done, the Italians are clearly waiting for Riva and Cera to recover from injury, the one to score the goals, the other to give some insight and drive to the defence. The great irony remains that Valcareggi is more popular now than he ever was.

Cagliari goalkeeper Albertosi—out of form and dropped by the national team for the match against Spain.

Müller scores winner again!

West German team-manager Helmut Schoen.

THE West German national side arrived in Albania determined to wipe out the bitter memory of that miserable goalless draw which caused their elimination from the European Championship three years ago. They returned with two points following a meagre 1-0 win, but this was the only positive achievement in the rain and mud of Tirana's national stadium. Perhaps it was just as well that the millions of German soccer fans missed—on account of technical difficulties—the promised live radio commentary. For this was undoubtedly the worst performance by a German team in the last 20 years, and no one could have grumbled had the Albanians won this match.

Luckily, Germany's boss Helmut Schoen, anticipating problems, had the foresight to engage the Italian-based "sweeper" Karl-Heinz Schnellinger, at 31 the oldest member of the side and on this occasion its pillar of strength. In addition, the irrepressible Gerd Müller scored his usual decisive goal to save the World Cup's third-placed team from utter humiliation. Especially the failure of the greatest midfield trio in Europe—Beckenbauer, Overath and Netzer—was quite inexplicable.

Confronted

It would be unfair, however, to blame them entirely for this poor showing as there were others, including Maier, Weber, Heynckes and even Müller, performed well below their normal form. Yet, this was virtually the best team available, with several highly paid world-class stars confronted by a bunch of amateurs who have little international contact and are glad to earn a few leks (Albanian currency) for their enthusiastic efforts.

Only lack of experience foiled the gallant Albanians who, far from playing primitive soccer, attacked with gusto and with any breaks might have won with two goals to spare. It was 22 minutes before a German fired at the opposing goal and in fact they only had six

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ARTHUR ROTMIL

scoring attempts in the whole of 90 minutes. But, of course, there was that man Müller! In the 38th minute Netzer planted a free-kick high and deep into the Albanian goal area where Müller headed the winner from four yards. How many times has he saved Germany's prestige? There are many who claim that without him they would never have reached Mexico.

Müller's exploits decided at least four preliminary ties. He hit the only goal against Cyprus in the 92nd minute, the winner v. Austria (1-0), then the only goal against Scotland in the 1-1 draw at Hampden, plus another in the victorious 3-2 return. He was also the World Cup's leading scorer with ten goals. The effort in Tirana raised Müller's total to 31 goals in 28 internationals!

Confirmation

But what has become apparent a few months ago in Cologne against Turkey (1-1), found confirmation in Albania. The German team as seen during Mexico '70, has clearly passed its peak. Above all they haven't yet found, nor are they likely to discover so easily another captain, an organiser and inspiring leader of the calibre of an Uwe Seeler. He was the man who placed the interests of the team above personal considerations. Perhaps his successors are not mature enough to display such utter devotion to duty.

After-match quotes—Helmut Schoen: "I knew that the Albanians would present problems and I warned not to underestimate them. We suffered from poor team-work and had several failures. Fortunately Schnellinger was in top form." Beckenbauer: "We had the best intentions but in the end no excuses. We have to admit that it wasn't the pitch or the rain but simply because we played badly." Müller: "What can I say? This Albanian team played well and could have won. I am only pleased to have scored the decisive goal."

Champions

This game was sandwiched between a championship and a Cup round. In the latter only one team from outside the Bundesliga managed to reach the quarter-finals. Fortuna Düsseldorf crushed Wuppertaler SV also from the Regional-Liga West, by 4-0, to earn a plum tie against the reigning champions Borussia Mönchen-Gladbach at home.

The Gladbacher drew 60,000 in Berlin's Olympic stadium where they put out Hertha by 3-1. Co-favourites Bayern Munich survived tremendous pressure in the feared Betzeberg ground where they held Kaiserslautern to a 1-1 draw after extra time. Inevitably Müller scored, equalising an own-goal by defender Koppenhöfer. Bayern will meet MSV Duisburg, who eliminated the leaders of the Berlin League, Tasmania, by 2-0.

European Five-a-side tournament... by LESLIE VERNON

Clock turned back fifteen years!

LAST month I spent two unforgettable days in Edinburgh as one of the organisers of the Ford's European five-a-side tournament for ex-internationals. There has never before been a gathering of yesterday's ageing heroes like this, and if the talk was better than the football—who cares!

The highly original idea of inviting the greatest names of post-war football to represent the Home Countries and another dozen foreigners to form two European sides, was an excellent one. Looking around in the foyer of the Esso motel, the label for the tournament, "The Night of a Thousand Caps", seemed unduly modest, since the players present collected more than five times as many international honours between them.

It was deeply touching just to see the old warhorses arrive at the scene of the "battle". Some of these men are in charge of little-known football teams, where they have to do menial jobs to keep their clubs solvent, others stand behind the bar in a pub or dish out coffee in a small café. But for two days in that picturesque Scottish town, they were "Kings" again.

Instincts

A couple of hours before the tournament, the rules were carefully explained to the "boys" in five different languages, and they were told that the object was to enjoy themselves—no matter who won! They sat around drinking tea—apparently bored, but madly boiling inside. The old killer instincts were wide awake, the sound of a distant trumpet was heard. Middle-aged business executives, pub-keepers, sports-shop owners, TV commentators were suddenly transformed into footballers proudly wearing the colours of their country.

The moment we walked into the dressing-rooms, I realised what made these men the immortals of the game. Besides natural gifts, they still have immense dedication, a burning love of football, personal ambition and pride. Qualities, which cannot be taught, but are so often sadly missing in present-day football.

The teams were drawn into two groups of three, and the winners of the round-robins were to play-off for the Ford trophy.

GROUP 1. Wales: Kelsey, Barnes, Burgess, Cliff Jones, Ivor Allchurch, John Charles, Ford. Ireland: Gregg, Peacock, Tully, Cush, McParland, McIlroy, Cunningham. Europe "B": Yarza, Graafland, Veldoen, Cluvan, Reija, Pals.

GROUP 2. England: Williams, Cohen, Wright, Franklin, Matthews, Lofthouse, Finney. Scotland: Farm, McCann, Woodburn, Wardhaugh, Cumming, Fernie, Leggat. Europe "A": Grosics, Matrai, Sipos, Lorant, Hidegkuti, Augusto.

Combined

In the first game, two quick Allchurch goals put Wales ahead against the combined Dutch/Spanish team, but the Europeans equalised with two minutes to go. (The duration of all matches—except the Final, which was 12 minutes—were only five minutes each way.) Cliff Jones put Wales ahead again, but in the last minute a fantastic Reija shot was turned towards his own goal by Kelsey. The 54-year-old Burgess calmly walked into his own goalmouth and cleared the ball. This is strictly against the rules; no player (apart from the goalkeeper) is allowed inside the semi-circle in five-a-side football. "Penalty!" screamed the Europeans, but veteran ref J. Mowt forgot the rule (!) and ignored the appeals.

Hilarious

The comparatively young Continentals beat Ireland 3-1, and in turn, the green-shirted Irish defeated Wales 3-2. In this hilarious match, goalkeeper Gregg was told by the chunky Charlie Tully to throw his clearances against the plank surrounding the playing area, "because that is your best player". Charles lost his temper and nearly walked off, when Bertie Peacock headed the ball away from him (also strictly forbidden) and got away with it. Gregg and Kelsey performed miracles in goal, but both cursed themselves when they found out that their heroics put the European team in the Final with superior goal-difference.

Before the tournament, Bert Williams asked the organisers whether it was possible to put a mattress in the goalmouth, so that he wouldn't hurt himself. His fears were amply justified in England's first match, when the old gentlemen were torn to pieces by the eager Graham Leggat, who looked good enough to walk straight back into the Fulham team. The score, 6-0 to Scotland, despite the midfield artistry of Finney and spirited defensive work by Cohen.

The Hungarians decided to "forgive" Augusto for scoring two goals against them at Liverpool in the 1966 World Cup, and it was the tubby Lorant for the substitute bench when Europe "A" faced the shattered England. This time, Sipos was the star of the match, scoring five times in an easy 5-2 win (Finney 2).

"The England team hasn't improved at all since 1953," said the poker-faced Hidegkuti after the match. But Sipos put him in his place. "You only scored three at Wembley—I got five tonight."

The Europe "A" v. Scotland match turned out to be a real thriller. Brilliant passing moves, flashing shots and incredible saves were the main features. Augusto and Cumming got the goals in a 1-1 draw, and according to the revised rules, "sudden death" penalty kicks were to decide the issue.

Defeated

Grosics, who played in a World Cup Final 16½ years previously, threw himself sideways and saved a shot coming at him from five yards! In the Final, the younger Europe "B" team defeated the other foreign combination 4-2 with some magnificent goals by Reija, the Spanish ex-international full-back, who played for his country in the 1966 World Cup.

After the tournament, there was a riotous banquet, culminating in a speech by the winning skipper, Eddy Graafland of Feyenoord, who held the trophy just as proudly as he did the European Cup a mere 18 months previously.

My last recollection was watching Lofthouse and Lorant drinking to each other's health non-stop for 30 minutes, and communicating with the help of the well-known international sign language. Finally, Nat summoned me over to interpret. "Tell him that he was the dirtiest player I have ever seen," he said with great admiration. I dutifully translated this, and Lorant was the happiest man in Edinburgh. After all, where else can you get such compliments...?

Youngsters to Watch
First in a new series
by ERIC THORNTON

PIPE-LINE NOT DRY

Wyn Davies, challenged here by Spurs centre-half Mike England, is an established Welsh international. Now there is another Davies following in his footsteps.

EVERY year, and in every way, the problems of big soccer are mounting, and solutions seem to be almost beyond the wisdom of a trade union of Solomons.

It is conceivable, of course, that a gathering of that kind might eventually scheme a winner, if no wildcat strikers intervened, yet it's to be doubted whether even such an assembly could iron out all the difficulties.

They might come up with a prize idea to stop the chanters. Or deal with the toilet manipulators, bawling managers, inefficient referees, and players who go over the top. But could they guarantee continuing delivery of the raw material?

That's the No. 1 headache for those who think ahead in the game today. The folk who matter behind the scenes will quickly tell you so. It's never out of their thoughts. They are constantly afraid, like the oil men of the East, that one day the supply may dry up.

Professional

I've been investigating this question of supply and demand over the last few months. I've talked to youngsters, parents, schoolmasters, scouts, club managers and directors, and am now fairly happy about the immediate future.

Let's have a look at the whole position, and achieve better understanding of it. In the first place, there are nearly 400 professional clubs in England, Scotland, Ireland and Wales. They all urgently need annual reinforcements, and usually measure up about 20,000 for likely soccer careers each summer. That may seem a staggering figure, but it must be remembered it's quickly trimmed at the expense of a rash of heartbreaks.

An immediate cut of 20 per cent is made after close-season trials, and many more get their cards throughout successive weeks until that early five-figure tally becomes a mere 500 lucky ones who know they'll be in with a chance though fighting against the odds every day.

Glamour

The recruiting lists are long, but always have one remarkable similarity. Most youngsters want to be scoring forwards, and top the glamour charts. Few want to be shot at between the posts, preferring to do the firing themselves.

There are some exceedingly useful prospects around, just now. Dozens in London, fine groups in the west, Midlands, Lancashire, Yorkshire, Scotland, Wales, and the other side of St. George's Channel. It's impossible to list them all here, but I've made a special note of some who could develop into the **Stars Of Tomorrow** for this first article of a short series about the teenagers.

We'll kick-off with **Graham McGifford.** He's a 16-year-old Cheshire grammar schoolboy, who is being given the full treatment on the other side of the Pennines where, at Huddersfield, they are wondering if he will become another Denis Law.

He dazzled the spaghetti-chewing locals during an Italian tour with a boys' team, and, after one of his pals had signed for Everton, another for Aston Villa, a third for Manchester United, and a fourth for Birmingham City, decided that the Leeds Road outfit would be his best choice.

When Graham finally makes the grade, there are going to be some red faces in Leicester. And I mean bright red. Because he learned the game there, starred in the town school's team, and was once actually recommended to the powers at Filbert Street.

Eurwyn Davies must have his name underlined, too, because everybody in the principality believes he is going to follow in the footsteps of Reg and Wyn, though not even claiming the slightest relationship.

Release

Liverpool seem to share that opinion, and have persuaded Cheshire Leaguers Rhyl to release the former Abergele scholar for trials. Which is just Eurwyn's cup of tea. Because when he's not playing you'll find him on the Spion Kop.

Paul Vickery, a 16-year-old apprentice at Southend, seems to have everything in his favour, and **David Toon,** a slippery, darting winger who spent most of his earliest years in the Notts coalfield around Shirebrook, is being shaped by the Derby County experts who believe in wingers.

● *Continued next month*

SAD DECL
REAL Z

SPANISH football followers were shocked last season by the temporary eclipse of Real Madrid. This year the team that has virtually "disappeared" is Zaragoza.

Real were "destroyed" by unprecedented injuries suffered by every member of their squad ... Zaragoza's decline was because of a far more insidious reason.

During the four years when Zaragoza reached the peak level of their history, they were even more famous than Real Madrid. Real captured the cups and titles and were undoubtedly the best team in the world ... but never, even in those glorious years between 1956 and 1960, did they capture the public imagination as did Zaragoza.

Real had two or three great players and outstanding personalities ... Zaragoza had 11 unknowns who within a single year became household names wherever football was played. No matter where they played, in Europe, America, England or Spain, whether they won or lost, they were popular, feared and always madly admired.

Zaragoza's successes can never be compared with Real's but their popularity during those five wonderful years between 1962 and 1967, pushed Real Madrid right into the shadows. Wherever you went it was always Zaragoza's "Magnificos" people affectionately talked about. They had personality plus and were without any shadow of doubt the most attractive and popular side in the history of Spanish football.

The Magnificos were the creation of one man, Don Waldo Marco, who became president of the club in 1962–63 and literally overnight lifted the club to fame and fortune.

Taking office

He took over a side with many talents; he has always admitted that; one which included Yarza, Seminario, Enderiz and Benitz. But soon after taking office he sold Seminario to Florentina for £98,000 and Enderiz for £24,000 and Benitz (£54,000) to Barcelona. With these deals he put the club financially on its feet, then began to shrewdly build.

On the club's books were three unknown players, Lapetra, Marcelino and Reija, in whom Waldo Marco put his faith. They ... and Enrique Zarza ... were the first of the side that created a sensation throughout Europe. Within months he had bought, or acquired, six players destined to fame and fortune ... Santamaria (£5,000), Pais (£5,500), Villa (£3,000), Santos (£6,000), Canario from Seville for nothing, and Violeta, a free signing from a local juvenile club.

It was these unknowns ... with the legendary captain Zarza, Marcelino, Lapetra and Reija ... who quickly became known everywhere as "The Magnificos"—and with every justification, for their football was the most attractive seen in Spain for years.

In their first season together (1962–63) "The Magnificos" took Zaragoza to the final of the Spanish Cup for the first time in the club's history; twice in the succeeding three years, 1964 and 1966, they won the Cup and were beaten finalists (1965)—each time, curiously enough, playing against the same opponents, Atletico Madrid.

Two years

The following year (1963–64) saw them winners of The Fairs Cup ... and two years later the losing finalists in the strangest of finals. They beat Barcelona 1-0 away from home but lost the dramatic second leg at home 2-4, missing a penalty and hitting the bar four times in the last 15 minutes.

"The Magnificos" not only brought fame and popularity to Zaragoza ... but honour. Until 1962–63 no Zaragoza player had ever played in an international match. Half-back Severina Reija became the first when he was selected for Spain's World Cup side in Chile. Within two years nine of "The Magnificos" were capped ... seven in one match (a Spanish record). Reija later gained 20 caps; Marcelino, who scored the winning goal in the Nations Cup final against Russia, 14; Lapetra 13; Villa, Santamaria, Violeta and Santos three each.

Wrecked

But regretfully this popular side declined—or was wrecked—just as rapidly as it appeared. Why?

Don Marco Waldo (now ex-president) puts it this way: "Every club has a grandstand board of directors and among them is always an aspirant president." Less diplomatically, the reason was intrigue, selfish personal ambition and deliberately cooked-up dissention.

After that first leg victory over Barcelona in the 1966 Fairs Cup, Zaragoza

Italy's Giancarlo de Sisti is obstructed by Costas of Spain during a recent international between the two countries Spain won 2–1.

NE OF ARAGOZA

Report by NORMAN CUTLER

were unaccountably beaten by lowly Granada in a League match. During the Fairs Cup second leg a few days later, the public, for some mysterious and never discovered reason, launched unbelievable scenes of dissatisfaction against their own club. Zaragoza, somewhat understandably, lost the vital final ... and a grave crisis immediately blew up.

Tired and utterly disillusioned, President Waldo and his board resigned, the waiting grandstand board took over and Don Alfonso Uson, a local businessman, became president of a club richer than at any time in its history.

Scapegoat

Immediately Zaragoza began to slip. Manager Fernando Daucik, who had done so much to build "The Magnificos", was sacked.

Olsen took over ... and strange team changes began to be made. Marcelino was made scapegoat for defeats and became so disgusted that he (later) refused the club's offer of a benefit match. Lapetra was slighted by the new president after loss of form following a grave injury against Everton at Goodison Park ... and Villa and Santos were fined £75 for "not trying", a decision that was reversed by the Football Federation. Santamaria gave up the game after a disagreement with President Uson.

Restless

On top of this an open feud developed between president and press. The public, fickle as ever, became more and more dissatisfied, the players demoralised and restless, and manager Olsen resigned. In the 1968–69 league campaign the club finished 13th in the table, escaping relegation by the failure of another club and even then by a fraction of a goal.

Last season Hector Rial became manager and set about reviving the club's sagging fortunes. But even before the league programme opened, President Uson, over his manager's head, bought the "fantastic" Paraguayan centre-forward Felipe Ocampos, a signing according to President Uson, that "will end all our troubles". Ocampos had a big reputation and a big size in hats ... but nothing more.

'The Magnificos'

Back row left to right: Yarza, Sigi, Santamaria, Reija, Violeta, Pepin. Front: Canario, Duca, Marcelino, Santos, Lapetra.

Rial worked like a trojan, as did the players, and things began to improve. Half-way through the season, when I asked Rial if he would be renewing his contract, he said: "Not for all the vodka in Russia." Patiently he guided them to eighth place in the League (1969–70) then politely and firmly refused to renew his contract in spite of very much better terms.

This season Jose Maria Martin resigned after two months and had to denounce the Board to the Federation to get what money was due on his contract. Domingo Balmanya succeeded him but left after only six weeks saying: "It's certainly not the players who are at fault." President Uson replied: "Balmanya's management was hilarious and stupid." Finally, former player Jose Luis Garcia, who at 34 became the youngest manager in the First Division, was landed with, by then, a lost cause.

And so from being one of the most successful and popular sides, the pride of Spain ... Zaragoza crashed to the bottom of the league.

What caused it all? A few of the facts I have given ... the rest you can easily find between the lines.

But let me finish on a happier note. "The Magnificos" simply disappeared, but where are they today? All are still as popular and as successful as they were on the field.

Enrique Yarza is still associated with the club and has an ultra-modern furniture store ... Severina Reija is frequently seen photographed with gorgeous, glamorous models, as owner of two fashion houses ... Darcy Canario has a luxury bar-restaurant ... and Carlos Lapetra breeds pedigree cattle in Huesco. Francisco Santamaria—in partnership with Villa and Santos—owns Spain's most fabulous night club, "The Golden Club", with its unbelievable all-golden décor ... Marcelino is a leading constructor ... Juan Villa (who retires this season) was recently elected to the Zaragoza City Council polling 202,000 votes, the highest in city history ... Antonio Pais has a chain of hotels ... and Jose Luis Violeta, capped this season against Northern Ireland, is a director of a steel company.

Don Waldo Marco, president of "The Magnificos"? Since his resignation he has sadly and silently watched each home match and the crumbling of the so wonderful side he built.

International Post-Mortem by Roger Macdonald

Two victories for Belgium

IN the European international championship, a narrow escape from embarrassment for England and West Germany; humiliation for Scotland; but a startling revival by Belgium. For Russia, an uninspiring tour of Latin America; and for Italy, lacking Luigi Riva, an unexpected blow to their prestige.

England set off for the Maltese sun without several established players—most notably without Bobby Moore, disciplined by West Ham for staying up too late in a Blackpool night club that Blackpool FC themselves, it subsequently emerged, finally had to put out of bounds to their own players. Absent, too, were the inside-forward trio of Clarke, Hurst and Lee, who had proved so magnificent against the East Germans; and Brian Labone, seriously hurt before Sir Alf Ramsey's own eyes in a match at White Hart Lane.

Understandably, perhaps, the hotch-potch of a team never imposed their superiority on a Maltese side lacking in skill, but not in spirit—although it did afford Ramsey an opportunity to give Martin Chivers, in brilliant form of late, his first cap. It was Martin Peters, however, not Chivers, who scored England's goal with a slow shot through a crowd of players that a better goalkeeper might have stopped. And it was Gordon Banks who kept the two points secure with a brilliant save in the closing minutes from the Maltese centre-forward Joe Cini, back from a five-match suspension for going berserk in a European Cup-Winners tie in Denmark.

Martin Chivers, making his England debut against Malta.

Malta have now drawn with Greece and lost to Switzerland and England by a one-goal margin—results that would be much more commendable had they been achieved on anything but their dust-heap of a pitch at the national stadium. If Malta are to achieve any real progress in international football, they will have to improve their playing surfaces—however difficult the climate.

Sunshine

At the other end of southern Europe, pouring rain, not glorious sunshine, greeted the West German side as they flew in from Frankfurt to Tirana, capital of Albania. This was a match Germany had to win, because they had already dropped a home point to Turkey in their group; and another upset could have given their main rivals, Poland, an unexpected place in the quarter-finals.

Helmut Schoen, remembering how a point lost in Tirana had ended in West Germany's elimination from the last European Nations Cup, when Albania held them to a goalless draw, took no chances with his team. He fielded a full-strength side, recalling even Karl-Heinz Schnellinger, in marvellous form all season for AC Milan. (*Full report page 37.*)

Scotland, fresh from a scintillating 1-0 win over the Danish amateurs, strode into battle against Belgium with the usual mixture of rash optimism and crass incompetence. They were perhaps unlucky to meet the Belgians on a muddy pitch in Liege more suitable for tank manœuvres than football, and to find Paul Van Himst (who had settled his differences with team manager Raymond Goethals) at the peak of his form. Van Himst scored three goals, including a penalty and an "assist" from a defender, to send Scotland home with their tails between their legs.

Afterwards the Scottish team manager Bobby Brown opened his mouth but

International Post-Mortem by Roger Macdonald

once to inform the *Daily Record* reporter what he knew already—that Mr. Brown had "nothing to say". Indeed, it was patently obvious to everyone that Mr. Brown could not find even one remotely plausible excuse for Scotland's humiliating defeat. The team, using the word in its loosest sense, selected by Mr. Brown was unbalanced, disorientated and defensive; it omitted several essential players with English clubs; and those who were picked had no confidence in their manager's ability.

Scotland's problems are so permanent—the drift of players to England, the difficulties of arranging practices, the bias against Anglo-Scots, the very existence of a selection committee—that they can only be overcome by a manager of the highest possible calibre. I would urge the Scottish FA to offer Jock Stein £5,000 a year to do the job part-time.

Belgium, meanwhile, are riding on the crest of a wave and must be strong favourites to reach the last eight of the European Championship. They followed their defeats of Denmark and Scotland (3-0) by beating Portugal just as emphatically.

The Portuguese won 1-0 in Denmark, a poor match watched by only 20,000 spectators—a measure of their appreciation of Portugal's decline just as much as the weaknesses of their own team. And the standard of Danish (amateur) football can best be judged by their recent goalless draw against Iceland, a team they beat 14-2 just over three years ago.

For all that, Portugal arrived in Brussels in high spirits, and apart from some difficulties with Eusebio's passport—he left it on the plane, which promptly flew on with it to Germany—they looked at their most relaxed for some time.

Stamina

Belgium began slowly, for eight of their players had taken part in a protracted Cup-tie between Anderlecht and Standard Liege the previous weekend that went into extra time; they were unsure of their stamina, and a little stiff and sore.

Their opening goal, therefore, was largely against the run of play. In the 14th minute Portugal's defence was overstretched, Semmeling crossed the ball to Denul, who bravely held off Humberto and provided Lambert with a chance from point-blank range.

From then till half-time, however, Belgium had to thank their goalkeeper Christian Piot for keeping them ahead. Piot, enjoying a marvellous season with Standard—just seven goals conceded at this point—brought off a series of superb saves as Portugal put on the pressure. In the 27th minute he put a full-blooded shot from Eusebio round the post then, almost at once, held a header from Baptista at full stretch under the bar.

In the second half the heavy ground in Brussels, not dissimilar to Liege, began to tell on the Portuguese. Van Himst, playing in his 57th international, was stopped only at the expense of a penalty—which Lambert converted neatly from the spot. Six minutes from time Denul, perhaps the best of the Belgian forwards, beat Damas with a fine shot to complete a memorable Belgian victory.

England manager Sir Alf Ramsey and trainer Harold Shepherdson inspect the pitch in Malta before their European Championship fixture.

Just over the border Holland had a run-out against Luxembourg, winning by 6-0 after a decidedly shaky start. The Luxembourg 'keeper Rene Hoffmann was equal to everything the Dutch could throw at him in the first half, that is except for one shot by Lippens, who looked offside to everyone but the referee.

Major surprise

But after the interval the flood gates opened, and Holland scored three goals in 17 minutes — two of them by the revitalised Johann Cruyff—to settle the match. Two more goals by Keizer (his second) and Suurbier in the last ten minutes were more, however, than the Dutch deserved. In spite of their big victory, it will be a major surprise if Holland qualify at the expense of either Yugoslavia or East Germany.

In the 35th minute Zoff, the Naples 'keeper, came out too far in a vain attempt to intercept a through ball for Pirri, who lobbed it immaculately over his head with the skill of a master. Italy should have equalised immediately when Rivera, having dribbled past five defenders, stupidly passed to Boninsegna when the path to goal was open. Instead, within five minutes they were 2-0 behind. Amancio flighted his cross from the right straight to Uriate, whose first-time shot on the half-volley found the top right-hand corner—a wonderfully spectacular goal.

In contrast Italy seemed sluggish and indecisive, failing even to score from an indirect free-kick taken barely eight yards from the Spanish line. When their moves did culminate in a shot, Iribar seemed equal to everything—everything, that is, apart from a shot by Bertini that rattled the crossbar. Italy could even have fallen further behind when Ferrante, a second-half substitute, cleared a shot from Garate that hit the post and rolled along the line. When they did score, Prati taking a rebound from Prati, it was much too late.

PERSONAL VIEWPOINT

This month

ERIC BATTY

FORMULA WILL PROVE BENEFICIAL

THE new style World Cup formula, which for 1974 will eliminate quarter-finals and semi-finals, has met with a mixed reception. Personally I like it, but as everyone must be aware by now I am prejudiced—I like football.

The new formula, two mini leagues of four teams with the winners playing off the final and the two runners-up contesting third place, is not new in the real sense but is an adaptation of the system tried in 1950.

On that occasion the four preliminary group winners, Uruguay, Brazil, Sweden and Spain moved on into a final "pool", playing each other once only and the result being settled on a league basis. Only by a fluke (or remarkable foresight) by the fixture makers did the final match, Brazil v. Uruguay, prove to be decisive. Officially there was no final.

The system agreed upon for 1974 may not be perfect. Leagues or mini-leagues tend to produce more drawn matches compared with sudden death quarter-finals and semi-finals but it is an honest attempt to hit the right formula.

Looking back over previous series, all competitions since the war have been based on the 1970 formula—save for the 1950 competition already outlined. But before the war two different schemes were tried and found wanting. In 1930, the inaugural competition, 13 countries travelled to Uruguay to play preliminary round games as in 1970 with one difference: only the four group winners passed into the semi-finals which were based on sudden death (and no match for third place).

In 1934 and 1938 FIFA tried to improve things by having the entire competition based on knock-out principles: Round 1, Round 2, Semi-final, Final (and a third place match). But the original complaints remained and the formula was clearly not commercially viable nor sufficiently interesting for the participating nations.

Eliminated

The problem was simple. In 1930, for example, teams like Rumania, Belgium, France and Yugoslavia crossed the Atlantic by boat (which took a considerable time) to Montevideo at considerable expense and after playing only two games in their groups Belgium and Rumania were eliminated and on their costly, lengthy way home. France were slightly more fortunate in being placed in a four-team group but they, too, failed to qualify and were homeward bound after only three matches. Only Yugoslavia qualified from Europe, beating Brazil and Bolivia before crashing 1-6 to Uruguay in the semi-finals. Even so, successful though they were comparatively, they too had played only three matches. Was it worthwhile?

In 1934 and 1938 the boot was on the other foot with Italy and France playing host; 1934 saw the USA, Brazil, Argentina and Egypt travel considerable distances—only to find themselves eliminated after only one game! Four years later the Dutch East Indies travelled half-way round the world for one game while Cuba (thanks to a replay with Rumania after a 3-3 draw) had two First Round games before being despatched back to Havana (0-8 against Sweden).

Only Brazil had what may be termed a fair run, meeting Poland (with extra time); Czechoslovakia (extra time and a 90-minute replay) before losing 1-2 to Italy, the holders, in the semi-finals. This time, too, there was a third place match which Brazil won 4-2 against Sweden.

For Brazil, who played 510 minutes' football and took third place, it was worthwhile, but for the Dutch East Indies, and to a lesser extent Cuba, it was a dead loss and certainly a financial disaster.

Clearly the object of organising the series is to enable teams to play and spectators to watch football matches. And in my opinion as many as possible. On this point there are few things more frustrating than having to choose between two semi-finals played on the same day (in Mexico) or four quarter-finals (played on the same day in England). In 1966 the semi-finals were played on consecutive days and I was one of many who was there in the flesh to see them both.

Formula

Again in Mexico I had to choose between quarter-finals (Brazil-Peru and England-West Germany) and semi-finals (Italy-West Germany and Brazil-Uruguay). I would have dearly liked to see them all.

This is what the new formula is about—making it worthwhile in terms of matches for teams and spectators alike to travel across the world to see it all. It is without doubt a step in the right direction for without considering possible replays 1974 will produce seven matches for the teams that reach the final and the third place play-off as against six in 1966 and 1970. Looking at the other side of the same coin see how many games each participant was "guaranteed" in each of the competitions staged to date:

1930 — ONE ... 1934 — ONE ... 1938 — ONE ... 1950 — Bolivia (1), Paraguay and Italy (2) and all the other teams three. The three countries who were cold-shouldered were not victimised but victims of the withdrawal of three teams who had qualified but finally decided not to go.

Minimum

In 1954 the minimum guarantee was again reduced to TWO matches; 1958 raised this figure to THREE and there it has remained. For 1974, three games is the minimum (for eight teams) while the other eight are guaranteed six matches.

Though everyone is now guaranteed more games the new formula for 1974 works against the smaller countries who might have, for example, an outstanding XI but little or nothing in the way of adequate, experienced reserves. More games means more risk of injury and the need for greater depth of reserve talent.

There is no ideal formula, or if there is then no one has come up with it yet, but the system decided upon for 1974 looks to me like the best yet. As I said earlier, I am prejudiced. Liking football, I want to see as much as possible and the more I can see the better.

Benfica chase Sporting Lisbon

WITH five league games left in Portugal, Sporting the champions, Benfica and outsiders Vitoria Setubal are still in with a real chance. Setubal gave Leeds United a tough time in the Fairs Cup, proving once more how insipid were the Czechs, Sparta Prague, who gave up at Elland Road without even a token resistance. Baptista gave Setubal an early lead and Leeds managed to scramble home 2-1.

For Setubal, championship success would be a real tonic and just reward for they dedicate themselves more than most Portuguese clubs to developing their own players and occasionally boost their finances by selling a young player to one of the wealthy, fashionable Lisbon clubs. One such was Benfica wing-half Graca, who starred in the 1966 World Cup—and his brother Alfredo left Vitoria to spend five years playing stopper for Sporting Lisbon.

Amongst Vitoria's most useful crop of current players, making their best title bid since they won the championship in 1933 (their only success) are the twin strikers Vitor Baptista and Guerreiro and the coloured left-winger Jacinto Joao, who planted a 30-yard banana shot against an England goal-post at Wembley a year ago when England struggled for a 1-0 win.

Replaced

At the wrong end of the table are six clubs that could "go" ... Barreirense, Guimaraes, Leixoes, Boavista, Tirsense and CUF. Barreirense have had a new boss since November (former player Quaresma who replaced Brazilian Edsey Fernandez) and Guimaraes are another struggling team with Brazilian connections. Their boss Jorge Vieira has been there since 1968 with two of his countrymen on the staff, Zezinho and Manuel.

Vitoria Setubal players crowd the referee after he had awarded Leeds United a penalty during their Fairs Cup clash.

Alan Rogers, newly appointed coach of the Washington Darts.

ROGERS TO COACH DARTS

THE Washington Darts club have announced that Alan Rogers from England will be the club's new coach.

Liverpool-born — London-domiciled, Rogers has a very impressive record during his 12 years' professional coaching career. A complicated appendix operation cut short his promising playing career, and he became a sports organiser and qualified English Football Association coach. He has undertaken several assignments on behalf of the world soccer body, FIFA, and has coached several national teams including the Philippines, Swaziland, Basutoland and Uganda.

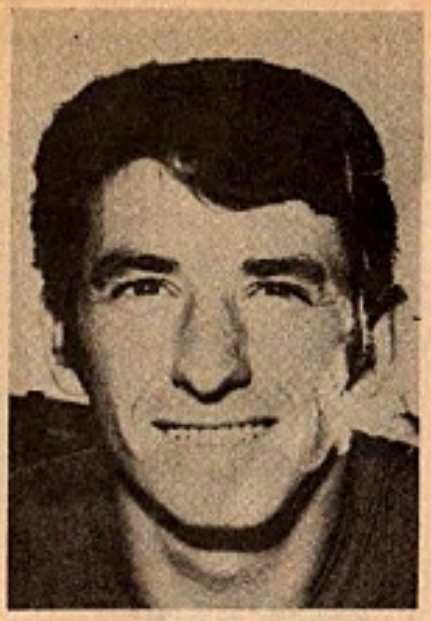
Invitation

Rogers first came to the US in 1965 at the invitation of the USFA to undertake a coast-to-coast coaching tour of 27,000 miles and 56 cities in the US, Canada and Bermuda. In 1966 he took the Uganda National XI to the African Finals in Zanzibar. In 1967 he pioneered the US Pro NPSL (with Phil Woosnam, now Commissioner of the NASL) by joining the Chicago Spurs. In 1969 he won the Persian First Division with the crack Peykan team of Teheran and then went on to defeat the powerful CSKA Red Army of Moscow for the Friendship Cup.

Last year Rogers returned to the USA and made a great impression in the NASL as coach of the Kansas City Spurs.

URUGUAY IN WORLD

by JACK



Uruguay international Esparrago.

URUGUAY are unique. Their record in international football is quite extraordinary for a country possessing little more than two million people and almost all their football played around Montevideo, the capital. They have had two World Cup wins, two Olympic titles and Penarol, their leading club, has twice won the World Club Cup Championship.

Football has probably not only put Uruguay on the football map but has succeeded in keeping it there. But the overcrowded inhabitants don't live on past glories though they do feed on their rich traditions. "We have our football," they say, with a pride which comes from a distinctive history.

Even in 1970 Uruguay managed to finish fourth in the World Cup. This was a creditable performance because they had to play throughout the final stages without any real contribution from their best outfield player, Pedro Rocha. He was injured early on in the first match with Israel and took no further part in the competition.

Attacking

Despite this setback to their hopes because Rocha was not only their most powerful midfield player but probably along with Luis Cubilla, their best striker, too, they reached the semi-finals and until half-time had Brazil very worried. And it was more than a little ironic that their match for third place with West Germany should feature their best attacking display yet produce no goals!

Uruguayan football is technically very good. Their ball control and ability to play their way out of trouble is better than the Brazilians in many respects. They lack only adventure and this may well be because of the claustrophobic atmosphere of their environment in which the game has to exist.

Not only is football centred around Montevideo but there are only two teams worthy of any note in the country by outside standards—Penarol and Nacional. Almost their sole means of real competition inside Uruguay is with each other and inevitably this produces enormous problems, too. In order to vie with each other they have to snap up the best players from other clubs.

Lucrative

Only last year when Penarol and Nacional were engaged abroad, the Uruguayan national squad had to attempt to train with players from other clubs. Then Penarol and Nacional swooped and signed half a dozen of them up!

But unless the two top sides can do well abroad in lucrative friendlies and prestige international tournaments with foreign clubs at home, the players become subjected even more to the lure of wealthy clubs from other South American countries. Money kept Rocha at home for many years but he, too, finally succumbed last year and Sao Paulo took him to Brazil.

And in order to keep players like Rocha happy, Penarol and Nacional have to enter just about every international club tournament at home or in neighbouring Argentina as well as go on tour frequently. There just isn't the cash in Uruguay.

While they often lose good players to Argentina, they have to look abroad themselves for replacements. They invariably have to sign Brazilians and Argentinians who are well into their prime as players or retrieve their own countrymen once past their best after stints in foreign climes.

Thus the overall picture of the production line in Uruguayan football is an unsatisfactory one. Only two clubs can derive any benefit from this situation and they, too, are in the hands of

Orjan Persson of Sweden and Kuis Ubinas of Uruguay, pictured during the 1970 World Cup finals in Mexico.

UNIQUE FOOTBALL

ROLLIN

foreign clubs continually trying to entice away their best talent.

To make matters worse this Penarol-Nacional domination has an understandably bad effect on the other Uruguayan clubs who often feel that they are merely the playthings of the big two—which they are.

Strikes by players demanding more money are not infrequent and there is really only any loyalty to country by the leading clubs and players when the crunch of the World Cup comes along. And no matter what problems may have arisen in the months beforehand —strikes as we have seen, doping scandals and the refusal to release players for training — Uruguay still manages to put up a good show.

Training

The Celestos football is a mirror of the country itself. Life is hard in Uruguay and their football shows it, too. But they have talent and ability. One of the most hopeful signs came from last year's South American Cup Final in which Penarol reached the final against Estudiantes of Argentina. World Cup training was on with a vengeance at the time and all the Penarol stars were whisked away.

Penarol had to send out a team composed of young reserve players and their ageing foreign stars like Spencer (Ecuador), Joya (Peru) and Figueroa (Chile). Only one goal beat them, too.

In the circumstances which surround the national team of a country like Uruguay the position of team manager is an almost impossible one. It's bad enough at any time or any place, of course, but in Uruguay it's ten times more difficult.

History

Yet even in 1970 Uruguay could look at the world squarely with some of the best players even they had ever produced in their history. Goalkeeper Ladislao Mazurkiewicz, rightly regarded as the world's No. 2 at the time; the wily centre-back Roberto Matosas who held the defence together using his head to save his and others feet; the elegant, ruthless midfield destroyer Julio Montero Castillo, a superb artist with the ball; Luis Cubilla, a roly-poly figure but an expert at wriggling round opponents and shielding the ball from the most venomous tackle.

There was no malice in their fierce, uncompromising tackling. They did it with a clinical finality all the same, but without appearing to be doing it out of any ill-feeling to their opponents.

Friendlies

Since the last World Cup, Uruguay have been quite quiet in the international field. Well, it's never easy trying to arrange friendlies at this level, when you can't get hold of your best players! But the pattern looks much the same as before.

A couple of home fixtures with East Germany amply illustrate the continuing trend. One was lost, another drawn. They will probably have the same kind of results until the time comes for them to scratch round for a team to play in the 1974 World Cup qualifying tournament.

Poverty-stricken Uruguay has many other problems besides its football, but success on the field can often provide a boost to people who have little else to live for outside scraping a living.

In their South American environment of football they can also look back on seven South American championship successes for the national side including the last time the competition was staged in 1967 and the fact that either Penarol or Nacional have reached the final of the South American Club Cup in eight out of the 11 tournaments—again no mean record.

Roberto Matosas of Uruguay.

Ladislao Mazurkiewicz, outstanding Uruguay goalkeeper.

Accepted

And while it must be said that the last few editions of the Copa Libertores have been played without the participation of top Brazilian sides, it is generally accepted that Argentinian club teams are usually more physically endowed for the rigours of the competition....

So there we have it. A story of tragedy but also of triumph. Perhaps if the country were bigger, richer and had more players then the achievements would not be as great. But it is a little sad that such a haven of Latin-American football artistry has to experience such agonies in order to provide the occasional sparkle of football success built upon a foundation of which the purist approves.

European Championship

GROUP 1

Czechoslovakia 1, Finland 1
Rumania 3, Finland 0
Wales 0, Rumania 0

Rumania	2	1	1	0	3	0	3
Wales	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
Czechoslovakia	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Finland	2	0	1	1	1	4	1

Matches to be played

21 4 71	Wales v. Czechoslovakia
16 5 71	Czechoslovakia v. Rumania
26 5 71	Finland v. Wales
16 6 71	Finland v. Czechoslovakia
22 9 71	Finland v. Rumania
13 10 71	Wales v. Finland
27 10 71	Czechoslovakia v. Wales
14 11 71	Rumania v. Czechoslovakia
24 11 71	Rumania v. Wales

GROUP 2

Norway 1, Hungary 3
France 3, Norway 1
Bulgaria 1, Norway 1

France	1	1	0	0	3	1	2
Hungary	1	1	0	0	3	1	2
Norway	3	0	1	2	3	7	1
Bulgaria	1	0	1	0	1	1	1

Matches to be played

24 4 71	Hungary v. France
19 5 71	Hungary v. Bulgaria
9 6 71	Norway v. Bulgaria
8 9 71	Norway v. France
25 9 71	Bulgaria v. Hungary
9 10 71	France v. Hungary
27 10 71	Hungary v. Norway
10 11 71	France v. Bulgaria
11 12 71	Bulgaria v. France

GROUP 3

Malta 1, Greece 1
Greece 0, Switzerland 1
Malta 0, Switzerland 2
Malta 0, England 1

Switzerland	2	2	0	0	3	1	4
England	1	1	0	0	1	0	2
Malta	3	0	1	2	2	3	1
Greece	2	0	1	1	1	2	1

Matches to be played

21 4 71	Switzerland v. Malta
21 4 71	England v. Greece
12 5 71	England v. Malta
12 5 71	Switzerland v. Greece
18 6 71	Greece v. Malta
13 10 71	Switzerland v. England
10 11 71	England v. Switzerland
1 12 71	Greece v. England

GROUP 4

Spain 3, Northern Ireland 0
Cyprus 1, Russia 3
Cyprus 0, Northern Ireland 3

Spain	1	1	0	0	3	0	2
Russia	1	1	0	0	3	1	2
N. Ireland	2	1	0	1	3	3	2
Cyprus	2	0	0	2	1	4	0

Matches to be played

21 4 71	Northern Ireland v. Cyprus
9 5 71	Cyprus v. Spain
30 5 71	Russia v. Spain
7 7 71	Russia v. Cyprus
22 9 71	Russia v. Northern Ireland
13 10 71	Northern Ireland v. Russia
17 10 71	Spain v. Russia
10 11 71	Northern Ireland v. Spain
24 11 71	Spain v. Cyprus

GROUP 5

Denmark 0, Portugal 1
Scotland 1, Denmark 0
Belgium 2, Denmark 0
Belgium 3, Scotland 0
Belgium 3, Portugal 0

Belgium	3	3	0	0	8	0	6
Portugal	2	1	0	1	1	3	2
Scotland	2	1	0	1	1	3	2
Denmark	3	0	0	3	0	4	0

Matches to be played

21 4 71	Portugal v. Scotland
12 5 71	Portugal v. Denmark
26 5 71	Denmark v. Portugal
9 6 71	Denmark v. Scotland
13 10 71	Scotland v. Portugal
10 11 71	Scotland v. Belgium
21 11 71	Portugal v. Belgium

GROUP 6

Eire 1, Sweden 1
Sweden 1, Eire 0
Austria 1, Italy 2
Italy 3, Eire 0

Italy	2	2	0	0	5	1	4
Sweden	2	1	1	0	2	1	3
Eire	3	0	1	2	1	5	1
Austria	1	0	0	1	1	2	0

Matches to be played

9 5 71	Eire v. Italy
26 5 71	Sweden v. Austria
30 5 71	Eire v. Austria
9 6 71	Sweden v. Italy
5 9 71	Austria v. Sweden
9 10 71	Italy v. Sweden
10 10 71	Austria v. Italy
27 11 71	Italy v. Austria

GROUP 7

Holland 1, Yugoslavia 1
Luxemburg 0, Yugoslavia 2
East Germany 1, Holland 0
Luxemburg 0, East Germany 5
Holland 6, Luxemburg 0

East Germany	2	2	0	0	6	0	4
Holland	3	1	1	1	7	2	3
Yugoslavia	2	1	1	0	3	1	3
Luxemburg	3	0	0	3	0	13	0

Matches to be played

4 4 71	Yugoslavia v. Holland
24 4 71	East Germany v. Luxemburg
9 5 71	East Germany v. Yugoslavia
10 10 71	Holland v. East Germany
16 10 71	Yugoslavia v. East Germany
27 10 71	Yugoslavia v. Luxemburg
17 11 71	Luxemburg v. Holland

GROUP 8

Poland 3, Albania 0
West Germany 1, Turkey 1
Turkey 2, Albania 1
Albania 0, West Germany 1

Turkey	2	1	1	0	3	2	3
West Germany	2	1	1	0	2	1	3
Poland	1	1	0	0	3	0	2
Albania	3	0	0	3	1	6	0

Matches to be played

25 4 71	Turkey v. West Germany
12 5 71	Albania v. Poland
12 6 71	West Germany v. Albania
22 9 71	Poland v. Turkey
10 10 71	Poland v. West Germany
14 11 71	Albania v. Turkey
17 11 71	West Germany v. Poland
5 12 71	Turkey v. Poland

Boca Juniors, national champions of Argentina: Standing, left to right, Nicolau, Melendez, Roma, Sune, Madurga, Marzolini. Kneeling: Coch, Rojas, Curioni, Palacio, Painetti.

Yardley in Aussie again!

ANDREW DETTRE from Australia

AUSTRALIAN players are still pretty far from being the best in the world—but in terms of overseas mileage they certainly belong to the élite. Take Sydney star John Warren, captain of the St. George-Budapest team and also of Australia. Since October 1969 he has played in South Korea, South Vietnam, Mozambique, Israel, New Caledonia, Hong Kong, Iran, Greece, England, Ireland and Mexico. By March he will have added Japan to this list—surely something even a Leeds, Santos or Bayern Munchen star could envy.

The truth is that Australian soccer, for long semi-isolated from the mainstream of world soccer, is fast becoming international-minded.

Overseas

The 1971 Sydney season actually opened with the visits of two overseas teams, VSS Kosice of Czechoslovakia and Toyo Kogyo of Hiroshima, Japan. Kosice, coached by former Slovan Bratislava star Joseph Venglos, who had a two-year spell in Sydney between 1967 and 1969, came with two World Cup members, Pollak and Pivarnik, and a high reputation. However, a crowded tour programme—three matches in three days—and a typically humid Sydney summer afternoon blunted their edge and enthusiasm. Even so, they recorded a 3-1 win against Pan Hellenic but not until the last ten minutes could they get on top.

Pan Hellenic, now coached by former Australian team coach Joe Vlasits, included a guest player in prodigal son George Yardley, who returned to Sydney in January, migrating to Australia for the remarkable third time since 1965, once again leaving behind Tranmere Rovers. However, Yardley's future is under cloud as his former Sydney club, St. George, invoking a local rule, claim that he is their player while Yardley claims to be a free agent.

Sydney Hakoah's international full-back Denis Yaager (left) with Ryde forward Bobby Dougan. Yaager spent a year with Everton a few seasons ago as a teenager.

DUKLA ARE STRUGGLING

THE national XI job thrown vacant when the Czech FA sacked and suspended Marko and Hucko is still open. Ladislav Kacani, the former Bratislava international inside-forward, was offered the position but declined. With the bulk of the country's best players suspended, no one wants to associate himself and his reputation with a group of young untried players. The results of the autumn campaign confirm this—a 0-3 defeat against France and home draws v. Finland (!) and Poland.

Dukla Prague, still the best known club outside Czechoslovakia because of their past achievements, spent part of the winter in South America where their most notable achievement was a 2-0 win over Saprissa, 1969 champions of Costa Rica, in an international tournament.

But at home they are struggling, strangely enough (with Viktor in goal) through conceding 25 goals in 16 matches. Dukla's first match in the second half of the campaign involved the lengthy trip to Kosica for a joust with Lokomotive.

Both clubs and six others are serious relegation candidates and Dukla did their hopes no good at all with a 0-4 defeat. Favourites for the drop are the bottom pair, Cup holders TJ Gottwaldov and Skoda Pilzen, who each have ten points from 16 games.

Four points separate the bottom six (including Dukla) and Gottwaldov's big hope is a real one—their young striker Zdenek Nehoda, whose nine league goals are enough to give him top place in the scorers' list.

Champions Slovan Bratislava show little sign of improvement and are virtually out of the race now in mid-table, with Spartak Trnava, the popular favourite for the title. Their two leading scorers are right-winger Stanislaw Martinkovic (a mini-Kurt Hamrin) and Josef Adamec each having eight goals to their credit.

TOP SIXES

Italy

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
AC Milan	21	12	8	1	41	16	32
Inter Milan	21	13	5	3	30	18	31
Napoli	21	11	7	3	20	12	29
Juventus	21	10	5	6	28	19	25
Bologna	21	7	9	5	24	18	23
Roma	21	4	14	3	22	20	22

Spain

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Atletico Madrid	25	14	6	5	44	19	34
Real Madrid	25	14	6	5	41	21	34
Barcelona	25	15	4	6	40	21	34
Valencia	24	13	7	4	29	17	33
Celta Vigo	25	13	4	8	32	29	30
Atletico Bilbao	24	12	5	7	33	20	29

Austria

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Austria Salzburg	18	11	5	2	40	19	27
Rapid Vienna	17	9	5	3	34	23	23
Wacker Innsbruck	17	10	2	5	30	16	22
Admira Energie	17	10	2	5	36	23	22
Voest Linz	17	7	6	4	23	20	20
Wiener Sportklub	17	6	7	4	31	18	19

Switzerland

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Grasshoppers	15	11	2	2	31	12	24
Basle	15	9	5	1	40	18	23
Lugano	15	7	6	2	26	17	20
Lausanne	15	7	4	4	35	27	18
Winterthur	15	6	4	5	20	22	16
Zurich	15	6	4	5	24	28	16

West Germany

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bor. Mon'gl'dbach	22	12	8	2	49	20	32
Bayern Munchen	21	12	7	2	45	19	31
Schalke 04	24	13	5	6	35	20	31
Eintracht Brunswick	24	13	4	7	41	22	30
Hertha BSC	24	10	7	7	37	30	27
1st FC Koln	23	8	9	6	30	30	25

Yugoslavia

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Partizan Belgrade	18	10	5	3	23	8	25
Hajduk Split	18	8	8	2	28	13	24
Dynamo	18	7	7	4	20	14	21
Zeleznicar Sarajevo	18	8	5	5	21	19	21
Olimpija	18	7	6	5	25	18	20
Velez Mostar	18	9	2	7	27	23	20

Czechoslovakia

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Spartak Trnava	16	10	4	2	30	9	24
Banik Ostrava	17	7	8	2	18	10	22
Jednota Trencin	17	9	2	6	25	20	20
Union Teplice	16	7	5	4	17	10	19
Sparta Prague	17	7	5	5	21	18	19
Slovan Bratislava	17	7	5	5	19	17	19

Hungary

	P	W	D	L	F	A	B	Pts
Ujpest Dozsa	16	9	4	3	44	18	(8)	30
Vasas Budapest	16	10	1	4	40	14	(6)	29
Ferencvaros	16	8	4	4	26	14	(8)	28
Honved	15	8	3	4	29	13	(7)	26
MTK Budapest	15	6	7	2	27	19	(7)	26
Diangyor	16	6	4	6	17	29	(5)	23

Figures in parentheses are bonus points gained from summer competition.

France

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Marseille	23	14	5	4	52	27	33
St. Etienne	23	13	7	3	42	25	33
Nantes	23	12	5	6	41	25	29
Metz	23	9	10	4	31	26	28
Rennes	23	10	5	8	41	28	25
Sochaux	23	10	5	8	36	29	25

England

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Leeds	33	22	8	3	57	24	52
Arsenal	31	20	6	5	36	25	46
Chelsea	33	15	11	7	44	35	41
Wolves	33	17	7	9	51	47	41
Southampton	32	14	9	9	41	32	37
Liverpool	31	11	13	7	29	18	35

Kurt Axelsson of Belgium club FC Bruges.

Everton centre-forward Joe Royle hits the bar during his club's European Cup match against Pananthinaikos. Everton drew 1–1 at Goodison Park.

Scotland

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Aberdeen	28	21	4	3	58	13	46
Celtic	26	20	3	3	66	17	43
St. Johnstone	28	15	4	9	48	40	34
Rangers	27	13	7	7	47	27	33
Dundee	27	11	8	8	40	39	30
Hearts	27	11	7	9	33	27	29

Argentina

Final Group Placings

Group "A"

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Chacarita Juniors	20	13	3	4	25	19	29
Gimnasia y Esg. (La Plata)	20	12	3	5	46	31	27
River Plate	20	11	4	5	30	20	26
San Lorenzo	20	11	2	7	45	26	24
Gimnasia y Esg. (Mendoza)	20	10	3	7	33	32	23
Racing	20	5	7	8	35	30	17
Newell's Old Boys	20	5	5	10	29	36	15
Talleres (Cordoba)	20	4	7	9	27	42	15
S. Martin (Tucuman)	20	5	4	11	19	37	14
Platense (*)	20	3	4	13	21	46	8

Group "B"

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Rosario Central	20	13	3	4	42	26	29
Boca Juniors	20	13	3	4	36	20	29
Velez Sarsfield	20	9	7	4	39	24	25
Independiente	20	9	3	8	37	35	21
Estudiantes de La P.	20	7	6	7	31	22	20
Banfield	20	6	6	8	29	29	18
Atlanta	20	5	6	9	17	22	16
Kimb'y (Mar del P.)	20	4	7	9	33	41	15
Gimnasia y Esg. (Jujuy)	20	4	6	10	27	53	14
San Martin (S. Juan)	20	4	5	11	27	47	13

(*) Two points deducted.

World SOCCER
MARTIN CHIVERS
Spurs

VITORIA SETUBAL

Back row, left to right: Jose Maria, Mendes, Cardoso, Carrico, Torres, Rebelo.
Front row: Octavio, Wagner, Guerreiro, Victor Baptista, Jacinto Joao.